

## Who/What is NHCFA

New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts is a 501(c)4 organization

#### Our Mission:

NHCFA pursues a vibrant and sustainable arts sector through education, enlightened public policy and public funding in support of the arts.

Membership: 100 individuals and 35 organizations

Governance: 12 Member Board of Directors.

Staff: None

Annual Budget: \$10-15,000 (Funding: lobbyist, Leadership Summit and Arts Advocacy Day in Concord)

NHCFA Foundation: formed in 2014, awaiting federal 501(c)3 approval; Purpose: to increase educational programs





### NHCFA History

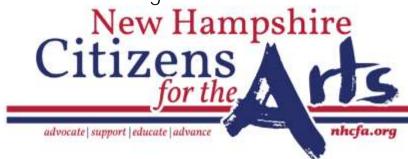
1965 - NH State Council on the Arts established (50th anniversary in 2015)

**1979 - Percent for Art program**, passed by the Legislature (.5% of new construction and significant renovations of state buildings for site-specific public artwork)

1984 ARTS 1000 – Initiative that led to New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts; incorporated as a NH nonprofit in 1987; part-time paid staff

1990s - Culture Wars; NHCFA expanded and contracted as threats and opportunities allowed

2007-08 – Americans for the Arts, NHCFA participated in ArtsVoteNH; NHCFA granted IRS status as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit in 2008.





#### Challenges

2009-2013 The Recession Years: Severe budget cuts and bills to abolish the NH Dept. of Cultural Resources

2012: HB1285: Bill to Repeal the State Art Fund. Outcome: House Finance Committee's majority recommendation was to refer to Interim Study

**2012**: **HB1274** Initial language proposed to dismantle the NH Department of Cultural Resources and eliminate the State Council on the Arts. Amended bill that passed transferred the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center from state agency to a private nonprofit and included a supplemental appropriation. The NH Dept. of Cultural Resources was left intact.

2013: House Bill 561: Bill to dismantle the Department of Cultural Resources (again)





### Making Our Case

#### How we made our case:

100 People to the hearing rooms

Over 30 testimonies

Written testimonies

Emails/Letters to Legislators on the committee

#### What we learned:

To extent possible, organize <u>who</u> testifies and in what order (we did better the second time around) Tap unlikely supporters that will surprise legislators

Less is more, legislators hate repetitive testimony.





### Thanking

## Legislators

Thank You Cards with an Impact

















#### House Parties



2012 – House Parties Gubernatorial Candidates

Republican: Ovide LaMontagne

Democrat: Maggie Hassan

2014 – House Parties Gubernatorial Candidates

Republican: Walt Havenstein (date: TBD)

Democrat: Maggie Hassan

TBD: State Senator Elect Celebration (November-January)









# Upcoming Legislative

#### Session

New Initiative: ACoalition to Increase State support for the entire NH Dept. of Cultural Resources

**Divisions of NHCR:** Arts, Library Services, Historic Resources, Film and Media Office, (Native American Commission)

**To Date**: Getting to Know You Meetings with Advocacy groups from all Divisions Meetings with Division Heads to identify priorities for funding increases. Meeting with Governor's Office to discuss proposed funding increase

**To Do:** Determine \$\$ increase and articulate case

Develop strategy for working with key legislative committee

Rally Advocates to the cause





#### Our Future

- Advocacy Literature Tool Kit
- Legislative Survey
- Arts Alerts
- Foundation Scholarship based on the "Why the Arts Matter?" Scholarship Essay
- Arts Summit
- Arts Day 2015
- Fall 2015 Americans for the Arts to host NH Presidential Primary Candidate Forum (similar to 2007/2008) – Candidates asked to speak about their position on arts policies/funding



