

# New Hampshire Citizens *for the* Arts

*advocate | support | educate | advance*

*[nhcfa.org](http://nhcfa.org)*



1984

for 30 YEARS

2014

# 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



*Your Eyes, Ears, and Voice for NH Arts*



# NHCFA History

1965 - NH State Council on the Arts established (50<sup>th</sup> 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.



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# 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)



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# 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 who 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.



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# Thanking Legislators

Thank You Cards with an Impact



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# 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)



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# Upcoming Legislative Session

**New Initiative:** A Coalition 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



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# 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

