

## Arts Advocate Handbook

Welcome to Arts Advocacy Day 2009! The success of Arts Advocacy Day depends upon the willingness of people like you who take time away from their busy lives to come to the Capitol and talk to legislators about the importance of the arts. This year we will be making history!

YOU are the most important person here today.  
Thank you for being an Arts Advocate.



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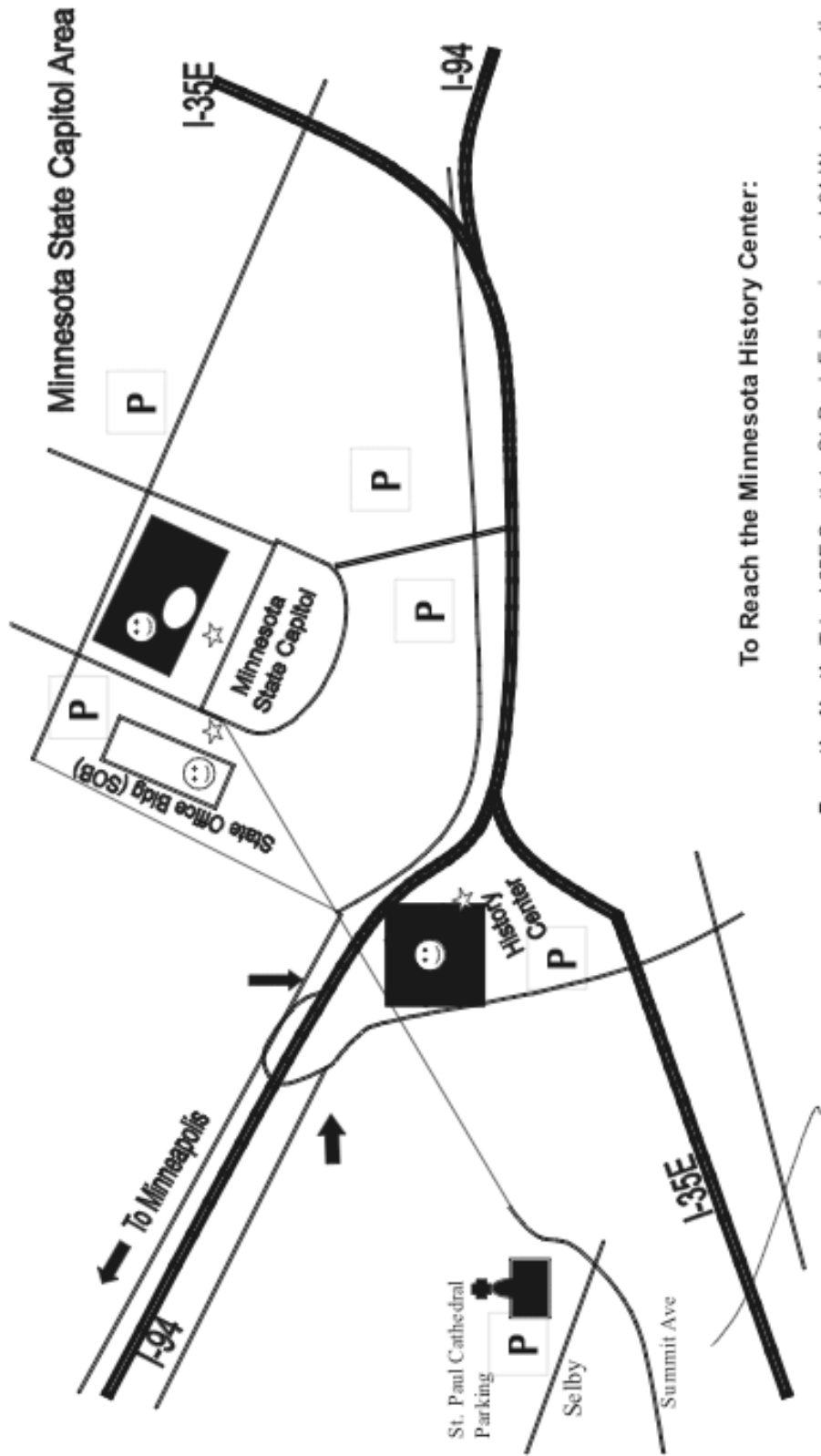
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Minnesota Citizens for the Arts believes that the diversity of Minnesota's artistic and cultural resources and traditions is what makes this state so rich and vibrant. MCA will create and abide by policies that increase and support diversity and access within the organization and will provide leadership to the field in advancing arts opportunities for all Minnesotans. MCA will ensure that our programs are available to all Minnesotans regardless of age; religion; cultural, ethnic and racial differences; physical and mental abilities; economic status; gender; sexual orientation; and geography.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all MCA services, programs and activities including making any of our information available in alternative formats such as Braille, large print or CD.

# CAPITOL AREA MAP AND DIRECTIONS



## To Reach the Minnesota History Center:

**From the North:** Take I-35E South to St. Paul. Follow signs to I-94 West and take the first exit, Marion Street. Take a left on Marion, crossing over I-94, and follow signs for Kellogg. The History Center is straight ahead. After traffic lights at intersection of John Ireland and Kellogg, get into the left-turn lane and turn left into the parking lot.

**From the South:** Take I-35 North, which merges with I-94 West, and exit at Kellogg Blvd. Turn Left on Kellogg and take the first right into the parking lot.

**From the East:** Take I-94 West. Exit at Marion Street and Take a left on Marion, crossing over I-94. Follow the signs for Kellogg Blvd. After the intersection of Kellogg and John Ireland Blvds., get into the left-turn lane and turn into the parking lot.

**From the West:** Take I-94 East to Marion St./Kellogg Blvd. Exit. Follow the signs for Kellogg. After the intersection of Kellogg and John Ireland Blvds., get into the left-turn lane and turn into the parking lot.

**P** Parking Spots

Parking is available for a fee in the parking lot adjacent to the History Center.

☆ Bus Stops

**MCA BUS STOPS:** Every 20 Minutes in front of the History Center, at the west guard shack in front of the Capitol's southern steps, and in front of the State Office Building (SOB).

☺ Lunch Spots

Lunch is available in cafeterias in the State Capitol, the Minnesota History Center and the State Office Building.

# Arts Advocacy Day Schedule

**7:30 to 8:00 a.m.**      **Registration & Coffee at the Minnesota History Center**  
*History Center Lobby*

Those not attending the Advocacy Class can register and socialize until 8:30.

**8:00 to 8:30 a.m.**      **Advocacy Class for New Attendees**  
*History Center Auditorium*

First-time arts advocates or those who need a refresher should attend this class for a basic orientation to arts advocacy.

**8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**      **Advocacy Seminar & Join Your Team**  
*History Center Auditorium*

**You need to attend this session in order to join your team.**

MCA's Executive Director Sheila Smith, Lobbyist Larry Redmond and special guests from the Capitol will give attendees the inside story on arts issues in the 2009 session. Be the first to hear the latest news on the \$5 Billion dollar deficit and the state of arts funding as well as, what's new with the *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment*.

**9:30 to 10:00 a.m.**      **Walk / Ride to the State Capitol**

Teams will walk or ride a shuttle bus three blocks to the Capitol. It may be quicker to walk. The shuttle bus will run every 20 minutes until 1:00 pm; its stops are noted on the map on page 2.

**10:00 to 1:00 p.m.**      **Legislator Appointments**  
*State Capitol & State Office Buildings*

Teams meet with legislators. *Meeting times and locations are noted on your Team Sheet.*

An experienced advocate will lead your team on legislative meetings. In between appointments, visit the MCA Home Base in the Great Hall of the Capitol where you can write a letter to the Governor, take a tour of the Capitol, or grab lunch in one of the cafeterias. Most teams will be finished by 1:00 p.m.

**\*MCA's Home Base is in the Great Hall of the Capitol building\***

# Eight Short Tips on Meeting With Legislators

- 1 Make sure you have your facts straight.** Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the materials in this handbook before you meet with legislators. You don't need to memorize the information provided, but reading it ahead of time will help to refresh your knowledge of current arts issues. If a legislator asks you something that you don't know, don't guess. Instead, offer to send the information to them at a later date. Let MCA know if you need help!
- 2 Be on time, be polite, be patient and be nice.** There is no quicker way to lose support for your issue than by being rude to legislators. Your legislator may have two committee meetings going on while they are supposed to be meeting with you and may be late. They can't help being overscheduled. Don't be offended – be glad that you have time with them and make the most of it.
- 3 Introduce your team members and note what connection each person has to the legislator's district.** Talk to each other before your meetings so you know everyone's connections to the legislators and their districts. Your team may include people who live in the legislator's district (constituents), people from organizations who have received grants from the MN State Arts Board (MSAB) or Regional Arts Council (RAC), people from organizations that have toured the legislator's district or an artist who has done a residency in one of the legislator's local schools. You may even be with one of the legislator's friends!
- 4 KISS: Keep it Short and Simple.** Our mission on Arts Advocacy Day 2009 is to ask legislators to support this point: **50% of the arts & culture funding from the constitutional amendment should go to the MSAB and RAC's.** You may only have the legislator's ear for five minutes, so get to the point as soon as everyone has introduced himself or herself. Be clear about why you are there, why they should care, and what you want.
- 5 Make your issue personal.** If you have time, tell stories about how arts funding and state grants have benefited the people and communities in the legislator's district. Your team leader will have a list of the grants that have been awarded in the district. How have these benefited children in the area? Senior citizens? How have the arts brought the community together?
- 6 Before you leave, say "thank you" again.** Your team leader will also have a thank you card for each legislator that your team meets with – be sure to sign them!
- 7 Let us know what happened in your meetings!** Please fill out an evaluation form for every meeting you attend (evaluation forms are in your folder) and give completed forms to your team leader or MCA staff at Home Base in the Capitol's Great Hall. Your feedback is very important to us, so please take a few minutes to jot down your impressions and any specific statements of support or opposition that the legislator made.
- 8 Let this be the beginning of your relationship with your legislators.** When you get home, send your legislators a note thanking them for their time. Invite them to local arts events, openings and other activities that they or their family may enjoy. **Be a resource to your legislators.** If he or she expressed interest in obtaining information on a certain arts issue or organization, send it to them! Let MCA know if you need help.

## What Are Our Goals for Arts Advocacy Day 2009?

1. To ask legislators to maintain arts funding at \$10.2 million and make sure that 50% of the constitutional amendment funds support the arts through the MSAB and RAC's.
2. To educate legislators about arts activities in their district.
3. To give a face to the arts in each legislator's district.

## What Are the Big Arts Issues This Year?

- 1. Maintain current arts funding at \$10.2 million per year.**
- 2. Support 50% of constitutional funding to the MSAB and RACs.**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Pawlenty announced a nearly 50 percent cut to the arts as part of a package of budget changes intended to balance the state's budget. A cut of this size would be devastating to an already reduced state arts budget. In 2003, the Governor proposed cutting 40% of arts funding, and we spent all that session fighting to reduce the cut to 32%. In subsequent sessions, we had managed to restore a small part of that funding. With this cut, the Governor is proposing to slash funding even lower than the arts had after losing a third of the funding in 2003.

The state currently appropriates \$10.2 million to the State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils, which go out in grants and services to all 87 Minnesota counties. The cuts would reduce that by 33% to \$6.9M for 2010, and then by 66% to only \$3.4M for 2011 (over the 2 year cycle, a 50% cut).

Another confusing angle in his budget recommendation is to turn the Minnesota State Arts Board, a state agency, into a "private non-profit," showing no state dollars going to the board after 2011. We can't tell what the point of that is, as it seems that the MSAB would still be largely spending public dollars. Such an action may conflict with the accountability and transparency of the use of tax dollars because the MSAB would no longer have to abide by the Open Meeting Law or public rule making, among other things.

In addition, while he shows revenue to the Amendment Arts and Culture Fund, he does not spend it. The Governor needs to explain how cutting this much funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils is NOT replacing one with the other. The Amendment says, "...the dedicated money ... must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute." It may be that his intention is to replace current General Fund spending on the arts with Amendment dollars, but the budget does not seem to show that, except that the Arts Board is the only entity listed on the spending side of the Arts and Culture Fund budget, and there are zeroes in that column. It doesn't really make sense. We will continue to analyze the budget and get out more information as it becomes available.

The mood at the Capitol is dark. The deficit is huge, at \$5B and rising, we don't know yet if and when federal stimulus dollars might arrive. The Governor is looking exclusively at cuts and shifts (pushing off paying bills by a year or two) to balance the budget. It is expected that eventually someone will propose tax increases of some kind to help balance the budget and reduce the size of cuts across the system, but that may be months away.

We thought last year was going to be the biggest year for arts advocacy in Minnesota history. Apparently, we were wrong! This year is even tougher. The Governor's budget proposal flies in the face of the clear message sent by voters in the passage of the Amendment: that we want MORE investment in the arts and culture, not less. To then additionally propose privatizing the State Arts Board is the opposite of the intent of voters. The state must spend the Amendment Arts and Culture fund on the arts and culture. The Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils, which make sure arts funding reaches all 87 counties through their grants and services, is a natural and accountable conduit for much of that funding.

It is expected that this will be a very tough fight, and we need everyone's help to make sure that arts funding for the next two years isn't slashed. That is why it's important for YOU are here today. **We've shown by passage of the Amendment that by working together we can do great things.** (See MCA History on pg. 10 for more details)

## Is There Anything Else I Can Do to Help? YES!

**\*\*3 simple ways you can help the cause**

**1 Send a thank you letter to your legislators when you get home asking them to support the arts. Get your friends to write a short letter too.**

According to Rep. Alice Hausman, *"Ten letters can influence a legislator."*

Your letter can be very short and simple. All you need to include is:

- Your name and home address
- An opening sentence that says: "Thanks for meeting with us (or "I'm sorry we didn't get to meet with you on") Arts Advocacy Day. I just wanted you to know that I would like you to support the arts."
- If you have more time, you can also add a few notes about the arts in your town and how important they are to your community. That's it!

Send your letters to the following addresses:

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
c/o MN House of Representatives  
State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
c/o MN State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**2 Join MCA's e-mail Arts Alert list, and be the first to hear arts news from the Legislature.** Go to MCA's website at [www.mncitizensforthearts.org](http://www.mncitizensforthearts.org) or send an e-mail to [staff@mncitizensforthearts.org](mailto:staff@mncitizensforthearts.org) to join the Arts Alert List.

**3 Volunteer at MCA:**  
MCA is always looking for people to help fulfill our organizational goals. Volunteers may help us throughout the year with mailing, calling, and organizing next year's Arts Advocacy day. One hour or ten hours, the commitment level is up to you! **Put your name on our volunteer list by sending an e-mail to [staff@minnesotacitizensforthearts.org](mailto:staff@minnesotacitizensforthearts.org)**

# Minnesota Citizens for the Arts: Your Statewide Arts Advocacy Organization

## MCA's Board Members Come From Every Corner of the State:

Maxine Adams, Fergus Falls  
Sandy Agustin, Minneapolis  
Donna Bachman, Minneapolis  
Sandy Boren-Barrett, Maple Plain  
Beth Burns, St. Paul  
Gabiella Calicchio, Minneapolis  
Hal Cropp, Lanesboro  
Barb Darland, Duluth  
Sean Dowse, Red Wing  
Craig Dunn, St. Paul  
Brenda Flintrop, Waseca  
Kathleen Hansen, Minneapolis  
Charlene Hudgins, Moorhead  
Amy Hunter, Staples  
James Kent, Crookston  
David Marty, Grand Rapids  
Carla McGrath, Minneapolis  
Margaret Miller, Minneapolis  
John Nuechterlein, St. Louis Park  
Robin Pearson, Rochester  
Jeff Prauer, St. Paul  
Faye Price, Minneapolis  
Mary Ann Pulk, Minneapolis  
Chris Rasmussen, Sauk Rapids  
Michael Robins, Minneapolis  
Leslie Schumacher, Princeton  
Rick Shiomi, Minneapolis  
Ann Spencer, Bloomington  
Amy Stoller Stearns, Detroit Lakes  
George Sutton, Cushing  
Sheila Terryll, Minneapolis  
Audrey Thayer, Bemidji  
Amanda Thompson Rundahl, Braham  
Ben Vander Kooi Jr., Luverne  
James Wafler, Maplewood  
Daniel Zielske, Mankato

### MCA Life Board Members:

Steve Barberio, Hopkins  
Jean Fournier, Apple Valley  
Karen Gray, Spring Grove  
Jennifer Halcrow, Minneapolis  
Bill Miller, Duluth  
John Roth, Minneapolis  
Charles Skrief, St. Paul  
Ben Vander Kooi, Luverne

## MCA Staff:

**Executive Director:** Sheila Smith  
**Lobbyist:** Larry Redmond  
**Operations Mgr:** Mark Albers  
**Fieldworker:** Sara Shaylie  
**Interns:** Miranda Bryan  
Anna Ruud

**Minnesota Citizens for the Arts** is a diverse, grassroots statewide arts advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure opportunity for all people to have access to and involvement in the arts. MCA's successes include helping pass the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, which will provide dedicated funding to the arts for the next 25 years through the Minnesota Constitution. We have also increased the state's appropriation from nothing to a peak of over \$13 million per year, securing and protecting tax exemptions for non-profits in Minnesota, and working on behalf of the arts with Minnesota's congressional delegation. MCA does not endorse any candidate for any office.

**What Does MCA Do?** MCA serves the statewide arts community's interests by lobbying the Minnesota State Legislature and representing the interests of the arts community to the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) and Regional Arts Councils (RACs). On behalf of the arts community throughout Minnesota, MCA organizes arts advocates from around the state to lobby legislators. Our issues include arts funding, tax policies that affect charitable giving and non-profits, and arts education. MCA lobbies on other issues important to the non-profit arts both at the Legislature and in the U.S. Congress. MCA also conducts original research.

**MCA's staff and Board of Directors** come from all over Minnesota and not only work with arts organizations of every genre, size and type, but also come from the general public. Half of MCA's board of 36 directors comes from Greater Minnesota. Our board membership represents every corner of the state.

**MCA is a grassroots advocacy organization.** This means that we organize members of the arts community and public to demonstrate the importance of the arts in Minnesota and to affect the outcome of legislative decisions by making sure that our elected officials hear the voices of the arts community. Our coalition includes artists, audiences, arts educators and arts organizations, big and small, and the general public in metro, suburban and rural areas who believe, as we do, that the arts contribute in positive ways to communities statewide.

**The most important piece of this puzzle is YOU.** Your input is important to your legislators, whether it be letters, emails, meetings, phone calls, or even a simple postcard. We succeed because thousands of arts advocates in the state of Minnesota, organized by MCA, make their voices heard year after year. We are here to help you be effective!

**Find out how you can become an ARTS  
ADVOCATE, and join MCA.**

Visit: [www.mncitizensforthearts.org](http://www.mncitizensforthearts.org)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What Issues Does MCA Work On?

- ✓ **State Arts Funding.** To ensure access to the arts for all Minnesotans by working to protect, and if possible increase, state appropriations to the arts in Minnesota. State funding reaches into every Minnesota county via the grants and services of the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils.
- ✓ **Enlightened Tax Policies.** Recognizing and encouraging the public's engagement with and support of nonprofits by working to promote and maintain tax policies beneficial to charitable giving, arts philanthropy and nonprofit arts organizations.
- ✓ **National Arts Issues.** To support federal funding of the arts, enlightened national tax policies for charities and other issues of interest to arts supporters.
- ✓ **Cultural Bonding Requests.** To support a state role in providing resources to create cultural infrastructure in Minnesota, but not to work on any individual organization's project.
- ✓ **Arts Education.** To support the inclusion of arts as a basic requirement in Minnesota schools by supporting the work of our sister organization, the Arts Education Consortium.

## Where Does State Arts Money Go?

State arts funding goes to the Regional Arts Councils (RACs) and Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB). Between the Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils, state money reaches every single Minnesota county in grants and services, and all legislative districts benefit from these grants:

### The Minnesota State Arts Board



- A. Gives grants to medium and large arts organizations, individual artists and schools, series presenters, folk arts and festivals across the state.
- B. Provides newsletters, artist and space directories, workshops and technical assistance to all.

### The Regional Arts Councils



- A. Give grants to small and medium arts organizations (generally rural), schools, libraries, cities, service organizations, community groups, individual artists and student artists, depending upon the needs of their own region.
- B. Provides newsletters, artist and space directories, workshops and technical assistance to all.

## What are the Regional Arts Councils?

The state is divided into eleven Regional Arts Councils (RACs) which each support a different geographic area of Minnesota. Minnesota's RACs are unique in the nation as a model for decentralized decision-making for arts grants, programs and services. The Minnesota Legislature established the RAC system in 1977 in order to serve the needs of arts organizations and artists throughout the state on a grassroots level. RACs are funded primarily by the State of Minnesota, supplemented by grants from the private sector. *For more information, contact Leslie Schumacher at 320-968-4290.*

## What is the Minnesota State Arts Board?

The Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) is a state agency funded primarily by the State of Minnesota, supplemented by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the private sector. The MSAB is governed by eleven private citizens appointed by the Governor from all over the state to serve four-year terms. As a state agency, the board sponsors a wide variety of grant programs, services and resource publications for individual artists, arts organizations and schools throughout the state. *For more information, contact the MSAB at (651) 215-1600 or <http://www.arts.state.mn.us>.*

# How Does MCA, the Arts Community, and the Legislature Fit Together?

**At MCA, everyone gets involved and works together:**

- ✓ Forming the agenda
- ✓ Funding MCA
- ✓ Gathering information
- ✓ Serving on the board
- ✓ Volunteering time
- ✓ Providing feedback...

At MCA, we connect arts advocates with their legislators, monitor activity at the Capitol, and inform our members of what's happening and who to contact. We also talk directly with legislators as bills move through the Legislature. MCA's Arts Advocates from all over the state talk to their legislators about the arts and why they should vote with us.

**Legislators vote on arts issues knowing that their constituents believe the arts are important.**

## Who is MCA?

- **MCA's staff and board:** Your voice at the Capitol, we organize and educate the arts community to affect the outcome of legislative decisions on arts funding, tax policies that affect philanthropy, and other issues important to the non-profit arts.
- **Individual Artists and Arts Advocates**, including audiences in every corner of Minnesota.
- **Small, medium, rural, suburban and metro arts organizations of all genres** and their staff, boards, and audiences (there are 1600 non-profit arts organizations in the state).
- **Large arts organizations of all genres** and their staff, boards and audiences (there are about 120 arts organizations with annual budgets over \$100,000).
- **The Regional Arts Councils** staff and boards: eleven independent, state funded grant making organizations supporting small and rural arts organizations and schools all across the state.
- **State Arts Board** members and staff: the state government's arts funding agency.

## How Does the Legislature Work?

- A. The Legislators and the Governor work hard to make friends in their districts, raise money for their campaigns and get elected. It's important that arts folks get involved in the campaigns of both parties so even more legislators will be friends of the arts. The Legislature has a Senate (67 members) and a House of Representatives (134 members). You live in the district of one state Senator and one state Representative.
- B. There are a lot of issues to be discussed and voted on each year, so the House and Senate split up into committees, just like most non-profit boards do, to get most of their work done. The Chairs of the committees have the most power, so MCA works to educate the Chairs about the arts.
- C. During the legislative session, the state's budget is split into pieces and sent to the committees for discussion and votes, including the arts budget. We pay most attention to the committee that gets the arts. (The budget making process takes place in odd numbered years; 2005, 2007, 2009 etc.).
- D. In both the House and Senate, once committees decide how much money they will spend, they send their piece to the "floor" so that the whole Legislature can vote on it. This is another good time to call or write.
- E. The Senate and House then have to agree with each other in a conference committee how the final bill will look. MCA tries to help them to agree on a high amount for the arts.
- F. When the Legislature is done, the budget goes to the Governor to sign. MCA works to educate the Governor about the arts so he won't veto the budget. When the budget is signed the money goes to the Minnesota State Arts Board and eleven Regional Arts Councils, who together make grants all over the state to our arts community.

# What's Happened to Arts Funding In the Last Few Years?

## -2003-

The state faced one of the worst per-capita deficits in the nation. Newly elected Governor Pawlenty proposed a 40% cut in arts funding. We spend all session fighting back. In the end, the arts were cut by 32%. The political upheaval of the death of Paul Wellstone, in addition to the threats to the arts, sparked an astonishing outpouring of activism from the arts community. A thousand people came to Arts Advocacy Day that February, overflowing the capacity of the History Center. We held coffee parties across the state, ran a phone bank out of the office that reached over 5000 arts activists, and posted a petition on the web that gathered 2000 signatures in just two weeks, among other efforts. Despite our losses at the legislature, the strength and passion of the arts community was undaunted.

## -2004-

It was non-appropriations year, but we smartly worked ourselves onto *the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment*, which would dedicate a percentage of sales tax revenue to the arts and culture and other things, such as land and water conservation. This bill had the potential to double or triple arts funding. With strong grassroots support, we passed the bill through several Senate committees to the floor, where, unfortunately, it died under threat of an unrelated amendment that would have banned gay marriage.

## -2005-

It was another deficit year, but we prevented further arts cuts by convincing Gov. Pawlenty to recommend stable arts funding. With much encouragement from arts advocates, the legislature went along with his recommendation.

## -2006-

It was a non-appropriations year but the debate on the *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment* dominated the session. Once again, the bill did not advance until the arts were amended onto it in the Senate. In a series of speedy committee hearings, the Senate sent it to the floor and onto a conference committee. The House took all session to catch up. The arts were amended in and out of the bill numerous times as it worked its way to the House floor, and with a dramatic amendment offered by Rep. Charron, the arts got back in to the bill. The conference committee was deadlocked on whether the funds should be dedicated from current revenues or be a part of a new tax, and the bill died.

## -2007-

Pushed by MCA and legislative leaders, arts funding was increased by \$1.743 million to \$10.336 million per year. We also added a state Poet Laureate and restored the Percent for Art program. The Statewide Smoking Ban included a provision that exempts smoking on stage as a part of a theatrical performance as long as notice is given to the audience beforehand. MCA also helped to add a provision to allow nonprofits to sell donated liquor at silent auctions. The biggest push, to pass the *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment*, came close to succeeding when it passed by large margins in both the House and Senate and then out of conference committee. A filibuster on another issue blocked final passage of the bill, but the bill stayed alive for the next session because it was only the first year of the 2-year biennium. Majority Leaders wrote a letter with a pledge to get the bill done next session. Knowing a great campaign would be needed, MCA leaders and conservationists began organizing the Vote Yes! Campaign.

## -2008-

On Arts Advocacy Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, over 500 arts advocates were at the state capitol to witness legislators pass the *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment* on to the people for a vote in the 2008 election. The passage of this amendment set into high gear the Vote Yes! Campaign. It was a wide-ranging coalition of artists, arts advocates, environmentalist, and outdoors enthusiasts from across the state. Over 350 nonprofit civic organizations statewide endorsed the amendment. On Election Day 2008, Fifty-six percent of Minnesotans voted "YES" to a constitutional amendment that would dedicate funds to the arts and the environment for the next 25 years. The passage of the amendment by such large margins affirmed that Minnesotans value a high quality of life that includes access to arts and cultural resources. MCA played a significant role in the Vote Yes! Campaign. This victory proved again that when we work together, we make great things happen for the arts and our state.

## -2009-

The state again has one of the worst per-capita deficits in the nation. The Governor has recommended eliminating the State Arts Board in 2 years and cutting Arts funding by 50%, despite the wishes of the voters. In the meantime, we will work to keep the State Arts Board intact and to funnel at least 50% of the new Arts & Culture Fund created by the Amendment to the MSAB and the RACs. We will win!

# Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Full Amendment & Ballot Language

## CHAPTER 151--H.F.No. 2285

*An act relating to constitutional amendments; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article XI; increasing the sales tax rate by three-eighths of one percent and dedicating the receipts for natural resource and cultural heritage purposes; creating an outdoor heritage fund; creating a parks and trails fund; creating a clean water fund; creating an arts and cultural heritage fund.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

### **Section 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, a section will be added to article XI, to read:

Sec. 15. Beginning July 1, 2009, until June 30, 2034, the sales and use tax rate shall be increased by three-eighths of one percent on sales and uses taxable under the general state sales and use tax law. Receipts from the increase, plus penalties and interest and reduced by any refunds, are dedicated, for the benefit of Minnesotans, to the following funds: 33 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the outdoor heritage fund and may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife; 33 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the clean water fund and may be spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, and at least five percent of the clean water fund must be spent only to protect drinking water sources; 14.25 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the parks and trails fund and may be spent only to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance; **and 19.75 percent shall be deposited in the arts and cultural heritage fund and may be spent only for arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.** An outdoor heritage fund; a parks and trails fund; a clean water fund and a sustainable drinking water account; and an arts and cultural heritage fund are created in the state treasury. The money dedicated under this section shall be appropriated by law. **The dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute.** Land acquired by fee with money deposited in the outdoor heritage fund under this section must be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open season unless otherwise provided by law. If the base of the sales and use tax is changed, the sales and use tax rate in this section may be proportionally adjusted by law to within one-thousandth of one percent in order to provide as close to the same amount of revenue as practicable for each fund as existed before the change to the sales and use tax.

### **Sec. 2. SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

(a) The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people at the 2008 general election. The question submitted shall be:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; **to preserve our arts and cultural heritage**; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?"

Yes ..... No ....."

(b) The title required under Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, for the question submitted to the people under paragraph (a) shall be "Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas."

Presented to the governor February 15, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State February 19, 2008

**On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 56% of Minnesotans Voted Yes on the  
Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment!**

# **The *Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment* was the largest arts and culture ballot initiative in American History!**

- ★ The Amendment was also the largest conservation initiative in American history.
- ★ With **56%** of the vote, the Amendment received the highest percentage of all candidates and initiatives in Minnesota on the statewide ballot on election day. We even got more votes than President Obama in Minnesota.
- ★ Children who have not even been born yet will benefit from increased access to the arts and culture and to a cleaner, healthier environment because of the passage of the Amendment.

## **★ We won in every congressional district.**

- ★ We won in 57 of 87 Minnesota counties.



- ★ The best area for the Amendment was the 5th Congressional District (Minneapolis), where 73% of the voters who voted on the Amendment checked “Yes.” Even if all non-voters are counted as “No” votes in the 5th, we still got over 68% approval.



- ★ **1,635,040 people voted Yes!** for the Arts and the Environment!



- ★ **Dedicated funding for the arts is now in the Minnesota constitution. No other state constitution includes dedicated funding for the arts.**



## **THANK YOU ALL!**

Literally thousand of heroes contributed time and resources to this effort. I know that many of you here today worked very hard to pass the Amendment. Thank you! I would like to particularly thank the members of the board of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, and the members of the Steering Committee of the Vote Yes! Campaign who forged an efficient, effective and collaborative effort, the arts organizations who devoted staff time and resources to supporting the campaign, and thank the staff of Vote Yes!.