

**A Policy Partners Update:
New Information on Featured Programs in
Policy Partners: Making the Case for State Investment in Culture
August, 2003**

The Center for Arts & Culture, in partnership with multiple state and national advisors, continues its targeted dissemination efforts of *Policy Partners: Making the Case for State Investments in Culture* (available for download at <http://www.culturalpolicy.org/pdf/policypartners.pdf>).

The report, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and written by Chris Dwyer of RMC Research, illustrates how cultural advocates have collaborated across the arts, folklife, humanities, and preservation to stimulate policies that advance the cultural sector and increase state-level funding. While the Center for Arts & Culture is particularly interested in culture, broadly conceived, more in-depth information about state-level domain activities and funding can be obtained from the following organizations that were involved in this project:

- American Folklife Center (<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>)
- Federation of State Humanities Councils (<http://www.statehumanities.com/>)
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (<http://www.nasaa-arts.org/>)
- National Humanities Alliance (<http://www.nhalliance.org/>)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (<http://www.nationaltrust.org/>)

While many more collaborations are featured in the action guide—including the Indiana Regional Partnership Initiative, the Missouri Historic Tax Credit Program, and the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program—this update provides a current snapshot of several states' collaborative programs and funding mechanisms and therefore serves as a useful addendum to *Policy Partners*. For the latest, most accurate information, please visit the program websites provided below.

Snapshot of Several Featured *Policy Partners* Initiatives

Maine New Century Community Program

<http://www.mainearts.com/organizations/newcentury/index.shtml>

- The New Century Community Program was created in 1999 to provide grants and services to a wide spectrum of the Maine cultural community. The program is a collaboration of: Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Library, Maine State Museum, Maine Historical Society, Maine State Archives, and Maine Humanities Council under the auspices of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council, a state coordinating entity.
- In 2003, the Program was selected as a semifinalist in the prestigious Harvard University Innovations in American Government Awards competition, often described as 'the academy awards for government programming'.

- In FY 03, the program was cut severely as the state cultural agencies responded to required budget-balancing cuts. While some programs continue, the large majority of its services have been suspended. Though the program remains popular at the State House, and many legislators have repeatedly indicated a desire to restore funding once the state budget crisis has eased.
- The agency partners of the Cultural Affairs Council are seeking additional funds for cultural infrastructure needs through a \$4 million New Century Bond Issue request. If approved by the legislature, it will be seen on the referendum ballot in November.

Oregon Cultural Trust

<http://www.culturaltrust.org/>

- The Cultural Trust is a statewide cultural plan to raise significant new funds to invest in Oregon's arts, humanities and heritage. The coordinating cultural partner agencies involved the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the Oregon Council for the Humanities.
- The goal of the trust is to create a protected endowment of more than \$200 million as a permanent source of funding for culture and to distribute competitive grants to local communities and cultural partner agencies.
- Over 4,500 citizens contributed close to \$1.7 million during the Cultural Trust's December 2002 campaign.
- Of 181 grant proposals received, Cultural Development Grants (totaling \$214,000) were awarded to 27 organizations this spring. Over \$200,000 was given to cultural partners.
- The balance of the funds contributed by Oregonians in December (approximately \$1 million) will build a permanent endowment.
- Early in the session, the Legislature rescinded \$3.3 million in funds that had been dedicated to the Trust from the sale of surplus state properties.
- Though some legislators are still targeting the Trust's tax credit for elimination, others are suggesting that all tax breaks be rolled back by 10-15% rather than singling out specific tax benefits.
- The Governor has asked that the Cultural Trust and the Oregon Arts Commission merge their administrations as a cost savings maneuver. Both the Arts Commission and the Cultural Trust board have endorsed this concept, though logistical and legislative details are still being discussed.

Arizona ArtShare (Arizona Arts Endowment Fund)

<http://www.arizonaartshare.org/>

- The Arizona Arts Endowment Fund was created in 1996 by the Arizona State Legislature and the Governor. This cultural trust fund advances the future of the arts in Arizona through both public and private contributions and is a unique partnership to build a foundation of long-term support for the arts in Arizona. The ArtShare partnership includes Arizona's nonprofit arts organizations, the arts education community, the Arizona State Legislature and Governor, the business and commercial entertainment

sectors, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Arts Stabilization Committee, Arizona Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona.

- On June 22, the Governor exercised her line-item veto to the state budget, which kept the \$7 million in the endowment. She also authorized a new \$2 million deposit for the 2003-04 year.

Other Noteworthy Programs/Activities

Kentucky Cultural and Heritage Consortium

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/eah/eahhome.htm>

- A December, 2002 statewide meeting to discuss *Policy Partners* was held in partnership with the Kentucky Education, Arts & Humanities Cabinet and the Center for Arts & Culture. Since then, the Kentucky Cultural and Heritage Consortium—a broad coalition of arts, humanities, heritage, folklife, and preservation organizations—has distributed a gubernatorial survey regarding arts and cultural issues to candidates and is planning a gubernatorial forum for candidates in early fall.
- A white paper/position paper is expected to be released later this fall. The consortium envisions the paper presenting: a cohesive image of the cultural sector, a snapshot of the impact of agency services (as a whole), and an examination of the valued outcomes of combined efforts.

Iowa Cultural Trust

<http://www.culturalaffairs.org/culturaltrust.htm>

- Iowa will establish a \$10 million Cultural Trust over the next ten years. It was originally conceived that the State would allocate up to \$1 million each year for ten years. Funding of the Trust would be the State's role in a statewide public/private partnership in support of cultural institutions.
- The Grow Iowa Values fund passed both the house and the senate and was signed by the governor in June. The governor vetoed many piggybacked tax and administrative measures, but left the Values Fund essentially intact. As part of that piece of legislation, the Cultural Trust ended up getting half a million dollars this year, with another half a million dollars slated for 2007.

Nebraska Cultural Endowment

<http://www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/nhc/endowment.html>

- The first of its kind in the nation, the endowment was created in 1998 when the Nebraska Legislature set aside a \$5 million endowment for both the arts and the humanities. When it is matched from other sources, the income from earnings on the principal is made available to support statewide programs of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Arts Council.
- No action was taken against the cultural trust; the state-designated \$5 million for the endowment remains intact.

Florida Trust Funds

<http://www.florida-arts.org/index.asp>

- Florida was the first state—in 1988—to use routine fees assessed on corporations to support arts activities, including fees for articles of incorporation, name registrations, penalties, and certifications.
- Florida lawmakers passed a bill removing all money from the Corporations Trust Fund, eliminating it as a revenue stream for the arts and culture. While the trust still exists on paper, all money is now being rerouted into the state's general fund rather than to culture.
- The other mechanisms that the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs uses for arts grants—the Cultural Institutions Trust Fund and the Fine Arts Trust Fund—were also left intact, although the revenue sources for these were amended to be "legislative appropriations" and dollars "contributed from any other source." In effect, culture has lost its dedicated revenue source and will compete with all other policy areas for a share of state general fund money.