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Arts Awareness and Advocacy

All sectors of non-profit and educational arts are waiting to see what will happen with local, state and federal funding. The economy is hitting everyone very hard.

Some interesting happenings:

- **Quincy Jones** has started a petition to gather support for a **Secretary of the Arts** in the new Obama cabinet. Signatures may be made online at the following address:

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/esnyc/>

- **Americans for the Arts** has made nine recommendations to President Obama for support of the arts in his Stimulus Package.

Americans for the Arts Recommendations	House of Representatives Proposal
Include artists in the proposal for Unemployment & Healthcare Benefits for Part-Time Employees	Proposes to extend unemployment insurance coverage for low-wage, part-time, and other jobless workers
Boost arts projects in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	\$1 billion in additional funding for CDBG
Provide economic recovery support to the National Endowment for the Arts to be administered by local arts agencies	\$50 million in additional appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts
Include cultural planning through Economic Development Administration program (Department of Commerce)	\$250 million for Economic Development Assistance
Increase community cultural facilities support in Rural Development Program (Department of Agriculture)	\$200 million for critical rural community facilities
Provide more support for arts projects in Transportation Enhancements (Department of Transportation)	\$31 billion to modernize federal and other public infrastructure
Fulfill the Obama pledge for an "Artist Corps"	\$200 million to put approximately 16,000 additional AmeriCorps members to work doing national service
Make Human Capital Investments in Arts Job Training (U.S. Department of Labor)	\$5 billion for working training and employment services

They have compiled a report of the 2008 Election Impact on the Arts. It is a very detailed report and can be found on-line at:

www.artsactionfund@artsusa.org

- **Arts for Life! Scholarships (started by Columba Bush) - February 2nd deadline**

Graduating seniors, \$1,000 scholarships. Brief essay, "How the Arts have positively influenced my life" and "What role the arts will play in my future". Also a sample of work. Complete information found at www.ExcenlinEd.org This information is also on the FSMTA website.

Respectfully submitted by Sonja Rozier, A&A Chair