
Fresno Coalition for Arts, Science & History
1401 Fulton Street Suite 904 Fresno, CA 93721 United States
559-485-1100
info@fcash.org
www.fcash.org

Yesterday, the US Senate voted to not include the \$50 million requested for the NEA in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. While it is understandable that some would want to eliminate earmarks, the amendment by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) that banned funds from going to museums, theaters and art centers, lumped the beautification projects and the arts in the same category as funding antigravity chairs and spas. It is an outrage to lump the hard-working, dedicated cultural sector in this manner.

It tells us that we have not done our job yet to communicate the real difference that the cultural arts makes in growing a thriving economy. Fresno County alone accounts for nearly \$120 million contributed to our local economy, by just the nonprofit organizations.

Nationally, ticket sales are down over 35% and we suspect locally that it is far greater. For-profit and nonprofit organizations are cutting their budgets to the bone, laying off employees and eliminating programs.

Tomorrow I will send out a survey to get your feedback on the effects of the economy on the work you do. For now, I want to remind you of the importance of everyone chipping in together to support our economy. Join an organization, renew your membership, buy a ticket to an event, sponsor something – even if it's less than last year – chip in, we'll get through this if we work together.

Thank you for all you do to support a growing a thriving cultural community.

Cynthia Cooper
Executive Director
Fresno Coalition for Arts, Science & History
ccooper@fcash.org
