

Greetings Arts Forum!

We are forwarding a simple and powerful message from the California Arts Advocates. In these extraordinary times, we urge you to do all that you can to articulate the role that artists and arts organizations play in a healthy economy.

Best,  
Deborah Cullinan and Brad Erickson, Arts Forum.



**[The official Americans for the Arts State Arts Advocacy Captain for California](#)**

---

**CAA HOME | HOW STRONG IS YOUR ARTS VOICE? | JOIN CAA TODAY | TAKE ACTION**

---

**"Our nation's creativity has filled the world's libraries, museums, recital halls, movie houses, and marketplaces with works of genius. The arts embody the American spirit of self-definition."**

**~ President-elect Barack Obama  
Read the [Obama Arts Plan](#)**

Dear Friends:

Yesterday, the 2009-10 California State Legislature convened for the swearing-in of newly elected Assembly members and state Senators, and to address the state's current \$11.2 billion budget shortfall and the projected \$28 billion budget deficit over the next two years. Immediately following the two sessions, the [Governor declared a fiscal emergency](#) and said "we must implement an economic stimulus package."

The arts contribute significantly to California's economy through tourism, jobs, social services and educational outreach. Public investment in the nonprofit arts has been proven to both spark economic activity in communities of all types and return tax dollars to public coffers.

**Now is the time to ask your state legislators to provide leadership that will leverage California's powerful arts sector to spark economic recovery now and lay the groundwork for future prosperity in the global economy.**

**~ 3 Ways to Show Your Support in 3 Minutes:**

- 1) Please visit the [California Arts Advocates Take Action Center](#) and email Sen. Leland Yee and Asw. Fiona Ma. Ask them to add the arts to their view while tackling the difficult issues facing California. Take a minute to email them and then tell your friends that you took action in support of the arts.
- 2) It takes another minute to sign a petition posted online by the [California Public Arts Association](#) endorsing a revenue generation proposal that recognizes that the arts have a significant role in driving California's economy. [Read more....](#)
- 3) Strengthen the national voice of arts advocacy by joining the Arts Action Fund through [Americans for the Arts](#) free membership offer. [Read more...](#)

As the official Americans for the Arts State Arts Advocacy Captain for California, CAA will again lead the California delegation to the Americans for the Arts 2009 National Arts Action Summit in Washington DC. [Read more...](#) Mark your calendars for March 30-31.