



Update

Greetings!

National Update

Some bad news

The President's budget proposal was released May 23. The budget calls for deep cuts into the nation's cultural agencies (including the National Endowments for the Arts and for the Humanities, the Institute of Museums and Library Services, as well as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting). The budget process (controlled ultimately by Congress) is long. No budget actions are currently underway or even scheduled. We watch for leadership from Americans for the Arts ([AFTA](#)), specifically their [Arts Mobilization Center](#). Vermont's national representatives are deeply supportive. We must all stay vigilant in our support of their efforts on behalf of the American cultural agencies.

Some good news

Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy recently introduced a bill, known as the "[Artist-Museum Partnership Act](#)," intended to amend the Internal Revenue Code to "allow taxpayers who create literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions or similar property a fair market value (determined at the time of contribution) tax deduction for contributions of such properties." The Act was first submitted in 2005.

"Anyone who has contemplated a painting in a museum or examined an original manuscript or composition, gaining a greater understanding of both the artist and the subject, knows the tremendous value of these works," said Senator Leahy. "This reform would preserve cherished art works for generations by encouraging donations directly from artists. Tax law currently discriminates against Vermont's cherished local artists and undermines the ability of public and cultural institutions in our small cities and towns to collect and conserve our nation's cultural heritage." Read Senator Leahy's [press release](#).

State Update

Governor Scott vetoed the legislature's most recent budget proposal. The Vermont Press Bureau maintains a [thread](#) on the budget story. At this moment, any news of FY2018 funding is on hold.

We will watch developments and keep you updated.

What You Can Do

Vermont legislators are currently away from the State House, and will be, for the most part, till next January. If you are not acquainted with your representative, make it a summer goal to reach out once or twice to your legislator. The most effective advocacy efforts are face-to-face: stories supported by clear data. Alternately, write a card thanking them for their work. Let them know that you care about the arts, culture, and creativity. Find your legislator on the Council's [Action Center](#) (upper right hand box) or on the general assembly [website](#). Contact [Zon Eastes](#) for ideas and contacts in your area.

Be in touch. Every voice makes a difference!

All best--



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