



vermont arts council
working for a creative state



Update

Greetings!

National Update

Appropriations

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives approved the Omnibus Bill, which includes the Interior Bill. The Interior Bill budgets \$145M each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$10M below current funding for each agency. Next, the Senate is expected to take action on its Interior Bill.

Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) has indicated that the Senate will advocate for the same \$145M recommendation. A final bill must be approved by December 8 to fund FY2018; there are fewer than 40 legislative working days remaining.

Tax Policy

Both the Republican Caucus and the President signal they are working on separate plans to reform tax policy. It is expected, however, that all planning will go through regular legislative order, and is likely to take several months. A budget resolution needs to be passed first to start moving a tax bill through the Senate.

Support for the charitable deduction and charitable giving is strong on one side of the aisle. Other proposals increase the standard deduction, which would likely result in fewer people itemizing. This alone could yield \$13B **reduction in** Americans' giving patterns. Americans for the Arts supports the [Giving100 Campaign](#), which proposes that all taxpayers be allowed to take the deduction for giving, whether or not they choose to itemize.

State News

Save the Date: November 8 and 9

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Vermont Creative Network Summit - a gathering of those working to advance Vermont's creative sector. The Summit theme: Connect to Advance. The agenda for this year's convening will focus on efforts to finalize key creative sector policy issues to forward to the governor and the legislature in January. Opportunities for networking, observing case studies, and skills building will all be included and are designed to sharpen awareness of the power of Vermont's creative economy as a vital part of the state's overall economy.

Who should attend? You! The initial announcement will be sent to organizations, individuals, planners, entrepreneurs, selectboard members, creatives, and legislators. Watch for more news, coming soon.

What You Can Do

Connect with your [elected officials](#). The most effective advocacy efforts are face-to-face: stories supported by clear data. Build an open, direct relationship. Invite your elected officials to local/regional group meetings – forums, discussions, arts events, or even breakfast. Contact [Zon Eastes](#) for ideas and contacts in your area.

Be in touch. Every voice makes a difference!

All best--



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