



## Update

# Greetings on this particular day

## 1.

Yesterday, The Hill, a reliable capitol-area news service, released [an article](#) that reported on the new administration's budget preparations and the potential elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities. Yesterday's news is not unexpected and is being treated seriously at the national level. Read Robert Lynch's [response](#) to that article. Lynch is Executive Director of Americans for the Arts (AFTA), the nation's key arts advocate. Here at the Vermont Arts Council, we are in close touch with AFTA, NEA, and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). To stay abreast of the national discussion, join [AFTA's Arts Action Fund](#).

Be in touch if you have questions.

## 2.

Mark your calendar for Vermont Arts Advocacy Day, **Friday, February 3**. Arts advocates are invited to the State House to gather together and to challenge elected officials in rounds of awareness-building pin ball. ...Wait. WHAT??! Introducing [Pinbox 3000](#). Cardboard Teck Instantute (sic), a Vermont company, is custom designing a small arcade of low-tech pinball machines to deliver fun while conveying arts advocacy messages.

We invite you to challenge your elected officials to a speedy game of pinball advocacy! Here's how this spirited advocacy will work: Let your legislators know that you are coming to the State House for Advocacy Day. Catch them at work for an informal challenge in the State House Card Room. We'll have a photographer there to capture your moment

Arts advocates are invited to a pre-brief for the day — a time to connect with one another, hear the issues, and talk strategy. Then, we invite you to debrief with us at 1:30 — a time to share successes, hear stories, and, yes, talk more strategy!

We will provide how-to details about Arts Advocacy Day very soon (it's two weeks away!). Stay tuned and work on your pinball skills!

### 3.

This week at the Vermont State House, the Arts Council testified before the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, had meetings with Mitzi Johnson (D-Grand Isle-Chittenden), new Speaker of the House, and leaders of the Legislative Arts Caucus. The Caucus will gather on Wednesday morning, January 25 at the Arts Council to discuss the Council's appropriations request, in accordance with our [Advocacy agenda](#).

Be in touch. Every voice makes a difference!

All best--



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