



Dear TFTA Members,

Thank you for your support of the arts in Tennessee. As summer comes to a close, children head back to school and the leaves prepare to fall, so Tennesseeans for the Arts prepares itself for an upcoming legislative session that we are sure will prove challenging.

There is good news and challenging news for the arts in Tennessee. The good news is thanks to TFTA's efforts in the legislature last session, the Tennessee Arts Commission fared well in a year faced with a \$1.3 billion deficit. Further, the Tennessee Arts Caucus remains strong, engaged, and committed to the arts.

The challenging news is there is every indication that cuts next year will be quite drastic and the arts will face an even greater threat than before. Active leadership and a strong membership base are more important than ever.

TFTA realizes the importance of being proactive in working to protect current funding for the arts in Tennessee. In preparation for the challenges that lie ahead, TFTA brings to your attention several action items of importance and asks for your help.

TFTA ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED LEADERSHIP

President: Stephanie Conner, former Tennesseeans for the Arts Executive Director

Vice President, East Tennessee: Susan Robinson, Arts & Education Council

Vice President, Middle Tennessee: Justine Gregory, Country Music Hall of Fame

Vice President, West Tennessee: Whitney Jo, Playhouse on the Square

Secretary: Tari Hughes, Nashville Public Library Foundation

Treasurer: Jonah Rabinowitz, W.O. Smith/Nashville Community Music School

Immediate Past President: Bob Willie, Chattanooga Ballet

TFTA ENGAGES IN STRATEGIC BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TFTA has embarked on a statewide search and recruitment of leadership for its board of directors. Following board development criteria adopted last year, TFTA is working to ensure an appropriate mix of professionals and executives in the arts, practicing artists, and business and community leaders with interest in and/or support of the arts in their communities and across the State. TFTA's new board members will be announced soon and we look forward to their input and expertise.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE ARTS

In partnering with you to prepare for the year ahead, TFTA asks the following of its membership:

==> Visit www.tn4arts.org to update and maintain your membership in TFTA – there is strength in numbers!

==> [Click here](#) to find out how to purchase specialty license plates and personalize them. Sales of these specialty plates directly benefit public arts programs through grants funded statewide by the Tennessee Arts Commission. Buying a specialty plate has a direct impact of the viability and sustainability of a wide range of arts programs throughout Tennessee touching the lives of thousands of Tennesseans every day.

==> Urge family, friends, colleagues and contacts to join TFTA and purchase a specialty license plate. Get creative and reach as many people as you can!

==> Contact TFTA if you need assistance in spreading the word. We have brochures and other tools to assist you. sameera@comcast.net / 615.309.1775

Again, thank you for your support. TFTA looks forward to our continued partnership with you and will be in touch as we work to keep the arts strong in Tennessee.

www.tn4arts.org



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!!!

Tennesseans for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission have partnered to promote the value of arts in our schools. You may have already seen one of the twenty five billboards across the state. Additionally, we are finalizing radio and tv spots, as well as a DVD and powerpoint presentation (complete with a script!) for you to use when communicating the importance of the arts in Tennessee. We will alert you in the days ahead to let you know how to download and begin using these tools.

Tennesseans for the Arts ★ P.O. Box 158966 ★ Nashville, Tennessee 37215
www.tn4arts.org ★ (615) 440-9758

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