



## Advocacy Toolkit for Arts-Rich Learning & Community Impact

This toolkit is your invitation to act—not just in defense of the arts, but in support of a more vibrant, equitable future for our schools and communities.

Whether you're an artist, educator, parent, nonprofit leader, or simply someone who believes in the power of creativity and care, your voice matters. Here's how to use it:

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### What We Mean by "Arts-Rich Learning"

We advocate for *arts-rich education*—a learning environment where the arts are not an afterthought, but a fundamental part of how students explore, connect, and thrive. This means:

- **More access** to music, visual arts, theater, media arts, and dance—especially in underfunded schools.
- **More opportunity** to integrate the arts across academic subjects.
- **More investment** in the nonprofit and community partners who make this work possible.

We believe that every student deserves a comprehensive and creative education.

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### How to Use This Toolkit

1. **Find your Members of Congress.** Use the directory below to identify your representatives. These are the people who vote on funding for education, the arts, and the nonprofits that uplift communities.
2. **Make contact.** Use the sample messages below to call, email, or tag your legislators.
3. **Share your story.** The most effective advocacy is personal. Talk about the programs, teachers, or experiences that made a difference in your life or your child's.

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### FIND YOUR DISTRICT CONTACTS

[CLICK HERE to download a PDF directory](#), including congressional districts served by YA affiliates, with contact details for key staffers.

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### **Sample Email to Your Representative**

**Subject Line:** *Please Champion a Complete, Creative Education for Every Child*

*Dear [Member Name],*

*As a constituent, I'm writing to ask for your leadership in protecting access to the arts in education and ensuring strong support for the nonprofit sector.*

*Organizations like Young Audiences Arts for Learning—and countless others across the country—deliver arts-rich learning programs that increase student engagement, improve attendance, and strengthen school communities.*

*This isn't a partisan issue. These programs serve students in both red and blue districts because families everywhere understand the value of creativity, connection, and opportunity.*

*I hope you'll stand with us in supporting a future where every child has the chance to thrive through the arts.*

*Thank you for your public service.  
Sincerely,*

*[Your Name]  
[Your City/School/Org Affiliation, if relevant]*

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### **Sample Social Post**

I'm speaking up for the kind of education every child deserves—creative, complete, and community-rooted. The arts aren't extra. They're essential. #ArtsEd #arts4learning #AdvocacyMatters #ConstituentVoice #YAnetwork

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### **Advocacy Tips**

- **Lead with who you are.** Mention you're a constituent—that's what matters most.
  - **Be positive and specific.** Tell a personal story. Why do the arts matter to *you*?
  - **Connect the dots.** A healthy society invests in the arts, in education, in nonprofit work. These are not luxuries—they're essential infrastructure.
  - **Follow up.** Real change happens through sustained relationships, not one-time outreach.
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### **For Broader Advocacy**

Want to do more? These organizations offer additional resources for speaking up:

- **National Council of Nonprofits** - [www.councilofnonprofits.org](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org)
- **Arts Education Partnership** - [www.aep-arts.org](http://www.aep-arts.org)
- **Your local State Arts Council** - Find them at [NASAA - National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](http://NASAA-NationalAssemblyofStateArtsAgencies)
- **Americans for the Arts** - [www.americansforthearts.org/advocate/protect-the-nea](http://www.americansforthearts.org/advocate/protect-the-nea)