

### ***What will the proposed FY2011-2013 mean for state arts funding?***

- State funds available to support arts engagement, arts education and creative economy development falls from \$2.4 million to \$759,1000 annually – **a reduction of \$1,658,600 annually and a 68% cut.** This is a far greater percentage cut than other state cultural agencies (Historical Society will receive a 10% cut).
- The current Arts Board budget is .013% of the overall state budget. If these cuts go through, the Arts Board budget will be .005% of the total state budget.
- The National Endowment for the Arts will provide an additional \$759,100, for a total of \$1,563,100 available for distribution and administration starting in FY2012; this is a reduction of \$3,722,400 in FY2011.
- Elimination of the Arts Board as an independent development agency, becoming a program of the Department of Tourism
- Elimination of the Percent for Art program, providing funding to include public art works in the construction of state facilities.

### ***Why is Wisconsin's investment in the arts, arts education and creative economy so important?***

- The arts are not just about promotion and attracting visitors – the arts are part of economic strength, educational advancement, engaged citizens, healthy communities.
- It is short-sighted and counter-productive to reduce the state's investment in the arts, arts education and creative economy:
  - Wisconsin should invest in the arts to move the economy, educational system and quality of life forward.
  - Wisconsin needs a diversity of local, regional and statewide economic strategies, including the creative industries.
  - All the qualities that the arts provide – creativity, innovation, imagination and entrepreneurship – are the qualities that people, businesses and communities, and the state as a whole, need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - Creativity and quality of life are important components of 21<sup>st</sup> century economic development
  - We need to educate our children for the 21<sup>st</sup> century world and workforce, to come up with new ideas as creative entrepreneurs.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century economic growth nationally and globally is in small businesses and entrepreneurial ventures.
- The arts are not a luxury that can be cut when times are tough, and are not something that only a few people participate in. *The priorities of the arts are the priorities of the state: good jobs, quality education, engaged citizens, healthy communities.*
- The arts are all about jobs, \$418 million impact from nonprofit organizations and 10,000+ businesses and 45,000+ full time jobs
- How will Wisconsin compete in the global economy with less investment in the arts, preK-12 and university education, libraries?
- Reducing the budget means reducing access to the arts for Wisconsin residents, since state funding supports free and low-cost programs, education, and community engagement.
- State funds leverage significant public and private matching funds, which will be reduced with reduced funding.
- The Arts Board is a development agency, not a promotional agency. If the development component of its mission is reduced/eliminated, there won't be anything to promote in the future.
- Reducing arts funding will not address the state's deficit in any meaningful way, but will have a negative effect on economic growth, education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, healthy communities, quality of life.
- [Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#) From the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

### ***General talking points about the power, benefit and impact of the arts:***

- The arts play a major role in building stronger communities that attract a diversified talented work force with staying power.
- The arts are a powerful vehicle for communication, a way to express visions that are beyond the capacity of words and a medium for cultural enlightenment. Knowledge of the arts is an indispensable foundation for critical thinking and enlightened citizenship in our increasingly complicated world.
- The arts play an essential role in exploring and expressing the emotional dimensions of experience, in shaping public discourse about critical issues and in formulating visions of the future, both for artists and their audiences.
- The arts are one of the best places for us to reach each other through and across our differences to understand each other and celebrate our diversity as individuals, groups, cultures, and communities.
- The arts are a way to engaged young people who do not connect in other ways. They keep young people in school, and they teach us how to bring our creative and critical thinking to tasks other than the arts. They build citizens capable of functioning and working in a global community.