

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES / CONGRESS

District 26

Name: Brian Higgins Democrat Current Occupation & Employer: Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives The current 2020 funding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is \$162.2 million, equaling \$0.49 per American resident (328.2 million residents in total). Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the federal budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain federal arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 and see an increase in need (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several federal and statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a federal and NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes ***** Name: Ricky Donovan Sr. Republican** Chose not to respond

District 27

Name: Chris Jacobs Republican Current Occupation & Employer: U.S. Congressman & Business Owner The current 2020 funding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is \$162.2 million, equaling \$0.49 per American resident (328.2 million residents in total). Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the federal budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain federal arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 and see an increase in need (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several federal and statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a federal and NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes ***** Name: Nate McMurray Democrat** Chose not to respond

NYS SENATE

District 59

Name: Patrick Gallivan Republican Chose not to respond ***** **Name: Jason Klimek Democrat** Chose not to respond

District 60

Name: Sean M. Ryan Democrat Current Occupation & Employer: New York State

Assemblymember The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes** **Optional Comment:** The arts are incredible important to our society. In the State Senate, I will be a champion for arts organizations here in Western New York and across our state. *****

Name: Joshua Mertzlufft Republican Current Occupation & Employer:

Patent Attorney The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts

business? **Yes** _____

District 61

Name: Ed Rath Republican Current Occupation & Employer: Erie County Legislator The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could

assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes ***** Name: Jacqueline G Berger Democrat Current Occupation & Employer: Faculty/Mentor SUNY Empire State College Elected Official – Amherst Town Board Member and Deputy Supervisor** The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes Optional Comment:** I actively support the arts in Western New York. I have colleagues and friends that are artists and I assist and support them when I can. I have worked with students who are getting degrees in the arts including one who wrote, directed and produced a documentary and others who worked on degrees in a variety of fields in the arts. I appreciate the value and importance of the arts in helping people deal with the crisis and in the recovery process. It is a critical service for everyone including children. We need to fund and support the arts! Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes Optional Comment:** There should be an arts task force. In the town of Amherst we have created working groups to discuss concerns and challenges. We have representatives from the arts including performing arts and museums. We have discussed reopening and safety procedures as well as sustainability of programs. It is important to engage the arts programs in making decisions about their programs. It is important to engage all sectors in New York moving forward and I would be a strong voice for the arts.

District 62

Name: Robert Ortt *Republican* Chose not to respond

District 63

Name: Tim Kennedy *Democrat* Chose not to respond

NYS ASSEMBLY

District 140

Name: William Conrad *Democrat* Current Occupation & Employer: Teacher / Ken Ton Schools The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the

state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes** ***** **Name: Robert E. Pecoraro *Republican* Current Occupation & Employer: Alderman-at-Large City of North Tonawanda** The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** **Optional Comment:** The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the negative of not having an active arts and cultural engagement in the normally active environment and I support the current funding of the NYS Council on the Arts. Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes** _____

District 141

Name: Crystal D. Peoples *Democrat* Chose not to respond ***** **Name: Sean Miles *Republican*** Chose not to respond

District 142

Name: Patrick Burke *Democrat* Current Occupation & Employer: NYS Assembly The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **No** **Optional Comment:** I have a well established record of supporting the arts but right now, I have constituents who are food and housing insecure due to the pandemic. I cannot make funding commitments while we work through the public health, budgetary, and economic

consequences of Covid 19. The federal government has abandoned New York in our greatest hour of need. I am doing everything I can to put pressure on them so we can properly fund our needed programs which include the arts. Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes ***** Name: Matthew Szalkowski Republican** Chose not to respond

District 143

Name: Monica Wallace Democrat Current Occupation & Employer: NYS

Assemblymember, District 143 The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes ***** Name: Frank Smierciak**

II Republican Current Occupation & Employer: NA The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes** _____

District 144

Name: Michael J. Norris Republican Chose not to respond

District 145

Name: Angelo J Morinello *Republican* Current Occupation & Employer: Ny Assemblyman

145 The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes**

District 146

Name: Karen McMahon *Democrat* Current Occupation & Employer: Assembly Member –

New York State The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** **Optional Comment:** There will be very difficult budget decisions next year in the wake of the pandemic. I will do all I can to advocate for NYSCA funding and for keeping the arts an important and vital part of life in New York State. Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? **Yes** **Optional Comment:** I would support an arts task force to help reopen arts institutions safely and responsibly and to provide stability to the industry. *****

Name: Robin Wolfgang *Republican* Current Occupation & Employer: Citibank, Communications Officer

The current 2020 funding of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is \$46.9 million, equaling \$2.41 per NYS resident. Knowing that COVID-19 will critically impact the state budget in 2021 would you support a plan to maintain state arts funding at this level, so that arts organizations in your district can present accessible arts programs for all of its residents? Many of these arts programs will relate to the aftermath of impacts by COVID-19 (for example: arts and healthcare, arts and mental health, arts and low-income residents, and arts and education, to name a few). **Yes** **Optional Comment:** I support the arts and have since I started on the youth board of the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC. Over my career, I have also served on such board of directors as Studio Arena Theater, Keenan Center and Artpark. Several statewide COVID-19 plans and task forces address sectors other than nonprofit arts, and many times the arts are considered under the context of

tourism only. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of a NYS nonprofit arts task force, which could assist with arts reopening procedures and sustainability practices and serve as expert partners to state representatives when making statewide decisions in relation to arts business? Yes _____

District 147

Name: David J. DiPietro *Republican* Chose not to respond

District 149

Name: Jonathan Rivera *Democrat* Chose not to respond ***** Name: Joseph Totaro *Republican* Chose not to respond