

Making the Legislative Process Work for Missouri's Arts Industry

Missouri Citizens for the Arts

MCA is the only statewide organization that promotes the whole of Missouri's arts industry to the public and private sectors.

MCA seeks to secure a stable and growing base of public financial support for the arts and to insure access to the arts for all Missourians.

Why MCA Needs to be Involved in the Legislative Process

- Educating the State Legislature on how the Arts impact their communities
- Creating a more friendly environment
- Fighting to protect the Arts in the state of Missouri.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Introduced in the House or Senate or both
- Bill gets a hearing (proponents and opponents)
- Bill voted on in committee
- If Passed bill moves to legislative calendar
- Bill debated on floor
- Bill passes out of body and moves to other body
- Bill passes out of other body
- Bill goes to conference committee
- Same bill passed in both bodies
- Bill goes to governor for signature or veto
- If veto then potential override
- If signed, you have a new law



How Do We Shape This
Process?

Through Lobbying

Lobbying is Not a Bad Word

- It's your First Amendment right
- Your Representatives want to hear from you
- You have a right and duty to stand up for or against issues that effect you and the Arts in Missouri.



How to Effectively Lobby

- Be informed
- Be polite
- Reference the specific legislation by proper title (SB 166)
- Make it personal and talk about how this issue affects you
- Have a specific “ASK”
- Follow up and remain in contact

When to Lobby

- Before a Committee Hearing
- Before the vote
- While Legislation is being drafted



Avoid Lobbying When Inappropriate

- In a restaurant
- At church
- At a Senator's child little league game
- USE COMMON SENSE

Remember You are the Expert

- Members and staff do not have time to understand every issue and detail
- You know what is happening with the Arts in your community, school, and in their District
- They rely on constituents and others to help educate them
- They want to hear your input and experience

Practice Makes Perfect

- Before lobbying make sure you know your issue
- Have notes for the key points you want to stress
- Know your facts
- If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them you don't know and you will get the information and get back to them. **Never make up an answer.**

How to Make Contact



- Write a LETTER
- Make a CALL
- Schedule a MEETING

All Communications Should Be:

- Clear
- Concise
- Consistent



Maintain a Relationship

- Once you have contact with a legislator, stay in contact with them
- Invite them to your events
- Send thank you notes
- Give them credit where credit is due

Your Efforts Make a Difference

- We need your voice
- We need your persistence
- We need your advocacy

The ARTS in Missouri Need You!!

Resources for Further Information

- Visit the MCA website at:
www.mo4arts.org
- Contact Kyna Iman, GAM's Legislative Consultant at:
kynaiman@earthlink.net
- Contact Your Representative by going to:
www.house.mo.gov
- Contact Your Senator by going to:
www.senate.mo.gov
- Capitol switchboard:
573-751-2000

If we don't stand
up for the Arts in
Missouri...

Who Will?