

Barack Obama

June 19, 2008

Americans for the Arts
2008 Annual Convention

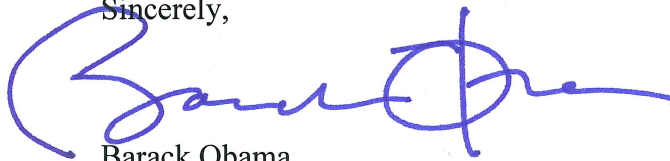
Dear Friends,

I want to offer my greetings to Americans for the Arts and thank you for the good work you're doing to support the arts and arts education throughout our country. I know that you have been active in this campaign season, and I remember being asked up in New Hampshire about my support for the arts.

I commend you for drawing attention to this issue and holding candidates' feet to the fire. As you may know, I've put together a National Arts Policy Committee, chaired by George Stevens and Margo Lion, that has helped me develop my plan to support the arts. I've been very vocal in this regard. I've proposed several ideas, including establishing partnerships to expand arts education in schools and establishing a new 'Artists Corp' that will focus on disadvantaged schools. I want to be the president to sign into law the fair-market tax deduction for artists who contribute their work to museums.

Finally, I've made it clear that I want to restore funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. These issues are important to me personally, both as a writer and as the father of two young girls who benefit greatly from the arts. Thank you for your leadership on these issues; I hope you have a great conference in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



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