



Introduction to Federal Arts Policy Lobbying

Arts Advocacy Day conference

March 13, 2006

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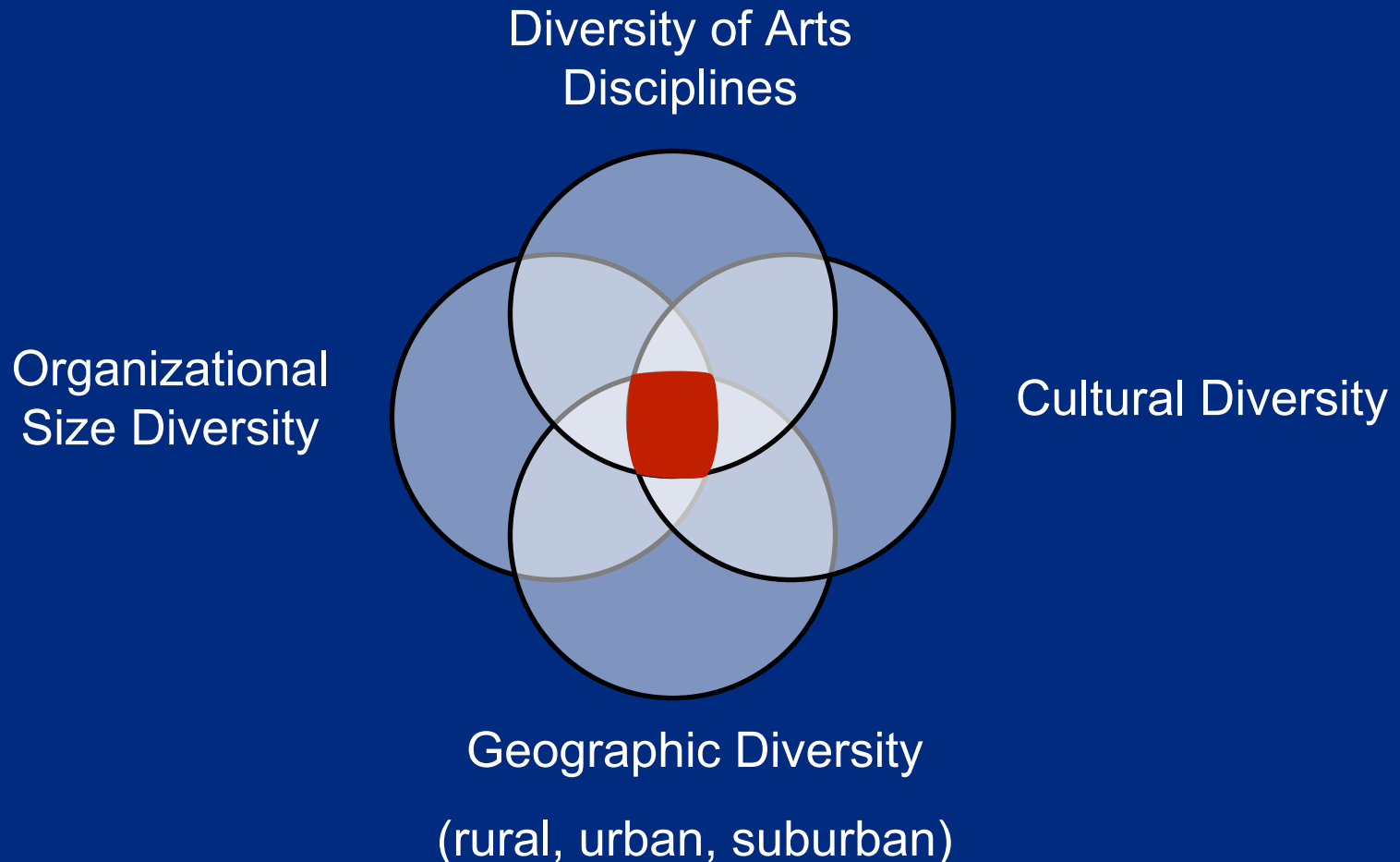
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Impacting Federal Arts Policy



Strength Through Collective Action





Definitions for 501(c)(3) nonprofits

- **Lobbying**

In general, direct lobbying is defined as communication with a legislator or their staff (federal, state, local or foreign governments) that references specific legislation and articulates a position on that legislation. All three requirements must be met. Additionally, advocating for public ballot initiatives is considered “lobbying.”

- **Advocacy**

While “lobbying” is a component of advocacy, the range of advocacy activities can be far greater, with no legal spending restrictions. Advocacy is a form of communication in support of a cause, which can include media education, public awareness campaigns, advertising, training workshops, public opinion polling, position and policy papers, voter education, visibility events, recognition awards, and other types of promotional efforts.



**Policy Action Outcomes
Voting**

**Supporting
Candidates**

**Identify & Evaluate
Problems/
Opportunities**

Idea Development

**Decision-makers
& Messengers**

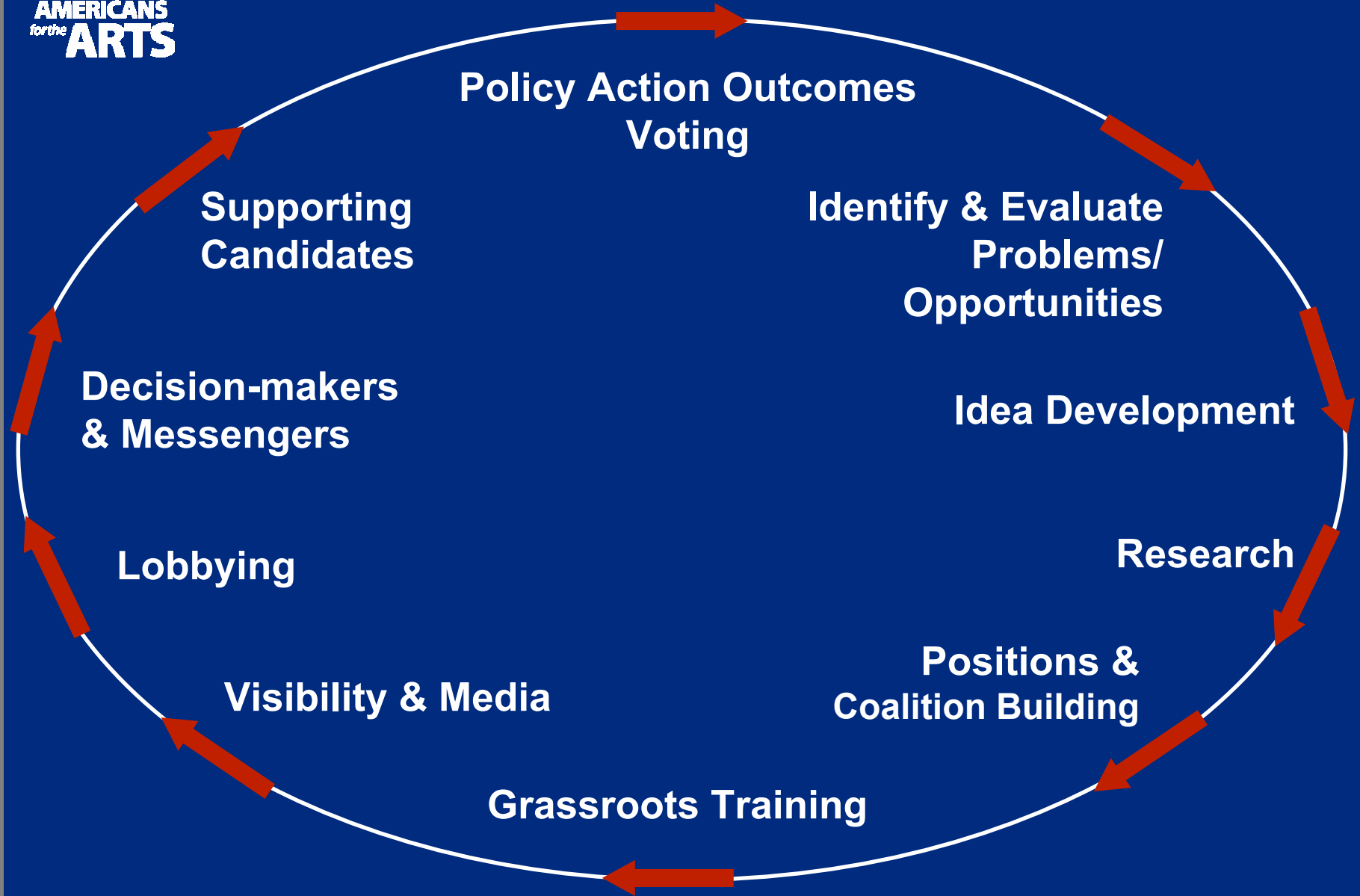
Research

Lobbying

**Positions &
Coalition Building**

Visibility & Media

Grassroots Training



Federal Appropriations Process

July to Feb.

Feb. to April 15

Hearings
Feb. to May

House Mark-ups
May to June

Senate Mark-ups
July to Sept.

July to Oct. If after 9/30, Congress must pass CR

Usually by Oct. 31

1

White House Budget

2

Congressional Budget

3

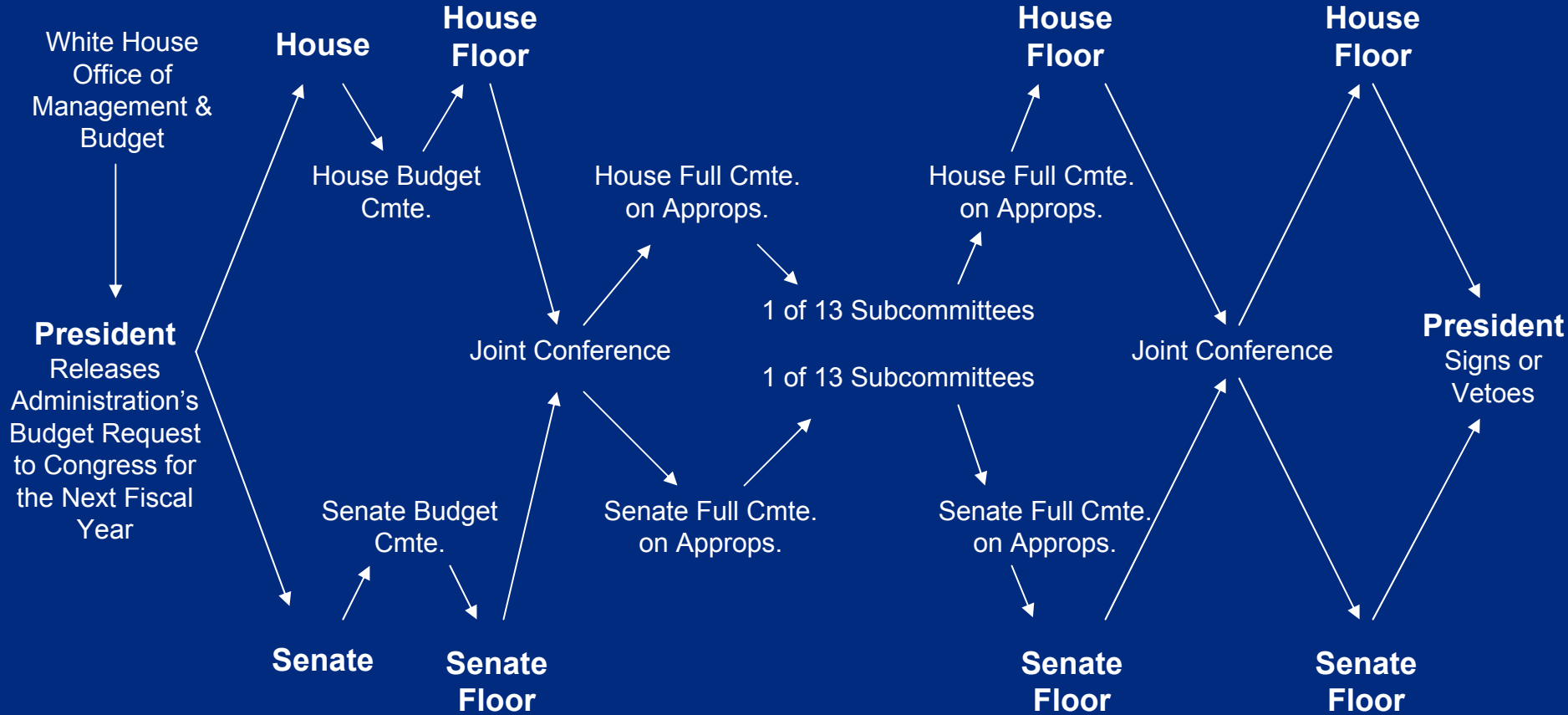
Congressional Appropriations Process

4

Joint Conferences

5

White House



Source: Americans for the Arts, 2006.

Last Year's NEA Legislative Appropriations Process

February 2005

March 2005

April 2005

May 2005

June 2005

July 2005

August 2005

December 2005

February 7
Pres. Releases FY'06 budget request to Congress. Level funding requested for NEA at \$121 million.

March 8
House Interior Subcom. Conducts NEA/NEH hearings.

March 15
Arts Advocacy Day position statements released.

March 16
House defeats budget amendment to eliminate NEA, CPB, and other programs.

Late April
Congressional Arts Caucus circulates *Dear Colleague* letters to generate support for increased funding for NEA. Delivered to Chair of Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

May 5
House Interior Subcom. marks-up FY'06 bill and level funds the NEA at \$121 million.

May 10
House Full Approps. Committee marks-up Interior bill. No amendments offered on NEA.

May 19
House floor votes on Interior bill and amendments. Congressional Arts Caucus Floor Amendment to increase NEA by \$10 million and NEH by \$5 million passes by voice vote. Two amendments to cut NEA fail by wide margins. House sets NEA funding level now at \$131 million.

June 7
Senate Interior Subcom. marks up bill and level funds the NEA at \$121 million.

June 9
Senate Full Approps. Committee marks-up bill. Amendment offered to increase NEA and NEH funding by \$5 million each, is approved and later adopted on Senate floor setting NEA level at \$126 million.

July 19
Congressional Arts Caucus circulates *Dear Colleague* letter asking conferees to adopt House's higher funding level for the NEA at \$131 million.

July 28
Joint House/Senate conferees adopt Senate funding levels and apply .476% rescission across the board within the bill. NEA funding set at \$126 million.

August 8
President signs FY'06 Interior Approps bill into law, setting NEA funding level at \$126 million.

December 19
Last of the 13 FY'06 Approp. bills passed, which includes a retro-active across-the-board 1% recession of all discretionary programs. NEA's final funding level set at \$124.4 million.



Do Your Homework

- Know Member's background
- Identify your mutual friends
- Research Member's committee assignments
- Research Member's voting record and co-sponsorships
- Know the latest facts & figures impacting the arts
- Look up federal arts grants in Member's district/state
- Articulate the needs of local nonprofit arts organizations
- Learn the background and status of federal arts legislation
- Determine what the most appropriate "ask" should be
- Stay in touch and build a relationship