"Mayors understand the connection between the arts industry and city revenues. Arts activity creates thousands of direct and indirect jobs and generates billions in government and business revenues. The arts also make our cities destinations for tourists, help attract and retain businesses, and play an important role in the economic revitalization of cities and the vibrancy of our neighborhoods."

-*Philadelphia Mayor Michael A.  Nutter*

 President, The United States Conference of Mayors 2012–2013

“The success of my family’s business depends on finding and cultivating a creative and innovative workforce. I have witnessed firsthand the power of the arts in building these business skills. When we participate personally in the arts, we strengthen our ‘creativity muscles,’ which makes us not just a better ceramicist or chorus member, but a more creative worker—better able to identify challenges and innovative business solutions. This is one reason why the arts remain an important part of my personal and corporate philanthropy.”

-*Christopher Forbes*

Vice Chairman, Forbes, Inc.

“As all budgets—local and national, public and private—continue to reel from the effects of the economic downturn, some may perceive the arts as an unaffordable luxury reserved for only the most prosperous times. Fortunately, this rigorous report offers evidence that the nonprofit arts industry provides not just cultural benefits to our communities, but also makes significant positive economic contributions to the nation’s financial well being regardless of the overall state of the economy.  This certainly is something to applaud.”

*-Jonathan Spector*

 President & CEO, The Conference Board

“Americans for the Arts continues to develop the tools for arts advocates and the evidence to persuade decision-makers that the arts benefit all people in all communities.”

*- Janet Brown*

Executive Director, Grantmakers in the Arts

“In Nebraska, we understand that cultural excellence is crucial to economic development. The economic impact of arts organizations on our state is significant, and without the quality and diversity of the arts, it would be difficult to attract and promote business development. Arts-related industries create jobs, attract investments, and enhance tourism. Additionally, the arts connect us to each other and add richness to our lives.”

*-Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy*

 Chair, National Lt. Governors Association

“At Aetna, we encourage our employees to be active volunteers. It’s good for the employee, good for the community, and a source of corporate pride. The research also makes clear that employees who are engaged in the community are more engaged at the workplace—and that is good for business. Arts organizations are part of the fabric of a healthy community, so we are delighted to provide incentives to our workers to be regular arts volunteers.”

*-Floyd W. Green, III*

Head of Community Relations and Urban Marketing, Aetna

“Disney has a rich legacy in animation, film and storytelling, so naturally we consider the arts to be an essential part of our business, as well as an essential element of our communities. We have seen how the arts not only enrich American life, but also support millions of jobs across the country, generate billions of dollars in economic impact, and help drive the family-vacation industry. By investing in the arts, we plant seeds for the future and make our communities better places to live.”

*-Meg Crofton*

President, Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts Operations, U.S. and France

“A vibrant arts environment stimulates and sustains a richer quality of life and economic health. In Delaware, where the arts are among our top 10 employers, we see how the arts contribute to the renaissance of downtown areas, enhance our educational system, and attract new businesses and residents to the state.”

*-Governor Jack A. Markell*

 Chair, National Governors Association

"The benefit of working with Americans for the Arts is that they give us data that helps us understand the impact of the arts locally, as well as across the nation. The arts have such a tremendous impact, but we must show the community the hard numbers; Americans for the Arts gives us those numbers to demonstrate direct economic impact. This is an invaluable partnership. We are grateful for the work they do in helping us show what an important asset the arts are in Linn County and in counties across the nation."

*- Supervisor Linda Langston*

 VP/ President Elect, National Association of Counties

 “One of the keys to building and sustaining communities and promoting high quality economic development is support and funding of the arts. We have witnessed, in some states, decreased support of the arts which is counterproductive and a major step backward. We need to emphasize that potential employers look at enrichment of lives as well as schools, hospitals, libraries, and other essential services for the communities in which they want to locate. We need to continue—and increase—our support for the arts. In today’s competitive marketplace, it has never been truer that supporting the arts means business.”

*- Senator Steve Morris*

 President, National Conference of State Legislatures

"Many businesses support the arts across the country because they intuitively understand that the arts matter, so it is great to get the facts and a clearer understanding of the links between the arts and economic prosperity."

*– Stephen Jordan*

 Executive Director, Business Civic Leadership Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

“The Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy  (CECP), which is active in measuring trends and best practices in corporate giving to the arts, values the far-reaching research and leadership of Americans for the Arts, demonstrated in the Arts & Economic Prosperity™ series.”

 *-Charles H. Moore*

 Executive Director, The Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy