

## **PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA (2024)**

**BIENNIAL BUDGET:** The Governor will introduce the 2026-2027 biennial state budget no later than the first week of February 2025. The appropriation for the Ohio Arts Council is included in the budget, which uses nearly all its funding for direct support through grants to individual artists and art organizations. The legislature must pass the budget and deliver it to the Governor for signature no later than June 30, 2025. Throughout this process, the legislature can increase, decrease, or make other changes in the allocation of these funds. CO will advocate for increased funding levels for the Ohio Arts Council, which recognizes the increased costs our members are experiencing. While educating lawmakers on the vital role the creative industry plays in the economy, education, and the state's cultural diversity, if circumstances allow, we will seek additional funding channels above and separate from the Council's funding.

**LOCAL ADMISSION TAXES:** Admission taxes have been imposed on ticket sales in many communities throughout the state; while some earmark the proceeds to support the arts in the community, some do not. CO will monitor and work with members seeking assistance navigating these issues at the local level and, when appropriate, at the state level.

**ARTS & CULTURE PERMISSIVE LOCAL FUNDING:** Cuyahoga County has long benefited from a state-authorized and locally enacted sales tax that supports arts and culture within the county. Currently, this mechanism is only available to Cuyahoga County by law. In the past, statewide coalitions have worked to change Ohio law to make this opportunity available to other communities across the state to provide additional public funds for the arts at the local level. CO will monitor and may participate in the advocacy of these efforts.

**MOTION PICTURE & THEATRE TAX CREDIT:** The popular Motion Picture Tax Credit was expanded recently to include Broadway theatrical productions.. CO will continue to support a coalition of cities, film commissions, and performing arts centers to lobby for increasing the cap on this successful tax credit program which not only provides significant economic stimulus to the state but also maintains employment for many in the creative industries.

**EDUCATION FUNDING:** Many CO members are directly funded by, or have forged essential partnerships with, local schools across Ohio. CO will advocate for continued funding for arts education and opportunities for school children to access arts and culture in their communities in productive partnerships with our members.

**ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY:** CO continues to advocate for programs to encourage and fund connecting arts organizations and individual artists within historically under-served communities, including economically distressed state regions, senior citizens, and correction facilities.

**ARTS AS AN INDUSTRY:** CO members operate much like any other business in the state. Our members are impacted by employment law, health and environmental regulations, non-profit corporation law, charitable giving tax treatment, and many other issues that can directly impact our members' ability to succeed. CO maintains regular contact with our like organizations representing the business sector and will continue to work together for all our members' interests.

**PERFORMANCE VENUE TICKET SCAMMING:** Several of our members face increased ticket scamming and predatory acts on consumers posing as the venue's ticketing site. Consumer protection is needed to prevent consumers from overpaying for tickets, and in some cases, paying for tickets that are invalid once they arrive at the venue. Venues are also negatively affected by these acts, both financially and in reputation. CreativeOhio will take the lead in developing robust and effective legislation that will attempt to curb and minimize these acts.