Northeast Ohio Arts and Culture Caucus

A non-partisan vehicle for public officials to connect with like-minded peers.

Purpose: To examine existing arts and cultural policies, craft legislation and build support for policies that further embed arts and culture into the fabric of our region.

Link: arts.cleveland.org/arts-culture-caucus/

STRUCTURE

Leadership

The Arts Caucus consists of two co-chairs, one representing creative fields and one elected official. Each co-chair serves a two-year term, with staggered terms to ensure continuity. Arts Cleveland staff invite co-chairs, though elected officials and artists may volunteer to serve in the role. Co-chairs are selected based on their ability to facilitate non-partisan discussion of arts and culture policies at multiple levels of government. In addition, working committees (see below) will each have one chair to facilitate discussion and report back to caucus members. Working committee chairs serve one-year terms and must be official members of the Northeast Ohio Arts and Culture Caucus.

Diverse Representation

The Arts Caucus is committed to representing the diversity of Northeast Ohio residents. All elected officials in Northeast Ohio are welcome and invited to become caucus members. Special attention to gender, race, ability, LGBTQ status, age, geography and political party will be monitored and considered in all leadership decisions.

Creative Advisors

In addition to the co-chair, a limited number of creative workers (3-6) will be invited to participate in Caucuses and Working Committees in an advisory capacity. As creative advisers rotate, staff considers the
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demographic and cultural indicators listed above as well as the artforms represented. Creative sector representatives are invited by Arts Cleveland staff and may be recommended by caucus members. Disciplines to consider include craft, dance, design, digital media, interdisciplinary, literature, music, theater and visual arts. Each of these disciplines have a wide range of genres or subdisciplines.

Working Committees

Two volunteer committees would meet between Arts Caucuses:

- Public policy: a public policy working committee will assess, create and propose adoption of public policies that enable creative workers and businesses to thrive.
- Placemaking: a placemaking working committee will recommend options and best practices for investing and working with arts and cultural assets in ways that help them contribute to the region’s vibrancy.

MEETINGS

Schedule

The Arts Caucus is scheduled to meet on the fourth Friday of every other month. Meetings are 90 minutes, led by co-chairs and staffed by Arts Cleveland. The agenda for each meeting, with the exception of pressing or time-sensitive issues will consist of the following items:

1. Call to Order
2. Arts Cleveland report out
3. Public Policy report out/show of support
4. Placemaking report out/show of support
5. Educational presentation
6. Unfinished and new business
7. Adjourn

Educational Presentation

Each meeting will consist of an opportunity to learn from an expert in the field. Presenters will be coordinated by Arts Cleveland. Topics will be selected based on current trends in arts policy, requests by Caucus members and opportunities for policy makers.