

SENIOR CLUB REPORT

ARTS ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

AD-2-1

Due Date: April 30 (2024)

Senior Club Name and State _____

Name of Person Submitting Report _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

"The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They enoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, empathy, and beauty. The arts also strengthen our communities socially, educationally, and economically-benefits that persist even during a pandemic that has been devastating to the arts." Source: AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, March 2022.

Arts improve academic performance. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students across all socio-economic strata. Yet the Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers. 91% of Americans believe that the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education. Source: AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, March 2022.

Our club members realize the importance of arts education in our schools. YES NO

Arts strengthen the economy. The nation's arts and culture sector-nonprofit, commercial, education-is an \$876.7 billion industry that supports 4.6 million jobs (2020). That is 4.2% of the nation's economy-a larger share of GDP than powerhouse sectors such as agriculture, transportation, and utilities. The arts boast a \$33 billion international trade surplus (2019). The arts accelerate economic recovery: a growth in arts employment has a positive and causal effect on overall employment. Source: AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, March 2022. **Our club is aware that the arts not only enhance our lives and communities but are an important economic engine in our culture.** YES NO

Arts improve healthcare. Nearly one-half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication. Source: AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, March 2022. **Our club understands that the arts are playing a bigger role in our healthcare system and having a positive impact.** YES NO

Arts and our stories. Our club understands that the success stories we experience, and share is the best way to advocate for the arts. YES NO

Club Action Items. Our club will include arts advocacy on our meeting agendas and will do our best to monitor arts issues by getting involved with regional arts councils, school boards, city councils, and state and national legislation. YES NO

Individual Action items. We will continue to be on boards of a community band, orchestra, chorus, opera, community theatre, or jazz arts group. We will promote the arts by encouraging our students, friends, and families to attend local concerts, theater events, visit museums and galleries, and to support local school music and arts education programs. YES NO

Enthusiasm! Our club is excited about becoming more involved in arts advocacy! YES NO

I look forward to hearing from you! Send a copy of this form to your state chair or if no active state chair, send directly to the National Chair: Dr. Valerie Harris, 2739 E Virgo Pl, Chandler AZ 85249. **Please include your stories, comments, newspaper articles or clippings.** Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments at 703.361.3398, or valerie_f_harris@yahoo.com