



The United States Conference of Mayors

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Americans for the Arts Holds Forum During Democratic National Convention in Denver

Miami Mayor Diaz Speaks on National Arts Panel To Emphasize Importance of Arts Education

Denver, CO – The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz was featured as one of five national panelists to discuss the importance of arts education in schools, during a panel convened by Americans for the Arts, a national arts advocacy organization. Diaz was joined on the panel by five-time Grammy award winning musician and artist John Legend; former Secretary of Education and Governor of South Carolina, Richard Riley; philanthropist Sheila Johnson; and NY Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Chair of the House Rules Committee in Congress and Founder of the Congressional Arts Caucus.

Each of the panelists shared their personal and professional stories about how the arts have impacted their childhood development as well as the communities in which they live. Mayor Diaz in particular, emphasized how the arts have increased the quality of life for Miami residents, and why access to the arts is so important for community development as well as education for children.

"Every community should be rich in arts and culture to not only maintain its economic vitality, but also to improve the quality of life for its residents. And every community should provide equal access to arts education for every child," said Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Nationally, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, \$63.1 billion in spending by organizations, and an additional \$103.1 Billion in event-related spending by their audiences. These statistics were provided by Americans for the Arts. Also according to Americans for the Arts, children who have access to an arts education, on average score 100 points higher on their SATs, and are 4 times less likely to drop out of high school.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is holding 5 issue forums from August-October to create an agenda that will be delivered to the next President of the United States during his first 100 days of the new Administration. The arts will be one of the five issue forums, to be held in Miami in October. For more information, contact Lina Garcia: 202.341.6113 or at lgarcia@usmayors.org.

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