

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and honor Americans for the Arts on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts was founded in 1960, and was originally called the Community Arts Councils, Inc. (CACI); later in 1964, CACI adopted a new name, the Arts Councils of America (ACA); and finally, Americans for the Arts was created in 1996 as a result of the merger between the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) and the American Council for the Arts (ACA), one of a small number of successful unions between two national nonprofit groups; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch has led the organization since the merger, expanding Americans for the Arts' annual budget from three million in 1996 to thirteen million in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts played a central roll in the formation and establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts provides leadership and training to local public and nonprofit arts agencies, arts and business councils, business committees for the arts, state arts agencies, state arts advocacy organizations, and community based cultural organizations across the country in helping their numbers increase and grow from fifty to five thousand; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts produces annual events that heighten national visibility for the arts and arts education, including but not limited to Arts Advocacy Day in

Washington, D.C., the Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy, the National Arts Awards, and the Public Leadership in the Arts Awards; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts enjoys a strong partnership with the National Lieutenant Governors' Association as four years ago the two organizations jointly began awarding the prestigious Public Leadership in the Arts Awards; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts continues to produce groundbreaking research on the size and economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry through its series on "Arts and Economic Prosperity," which reports that approximately 100,000 nonprofit cultural organizations generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year supporting 5.7 million jobs and generating \$29.6 billion in government revenue; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts understands the complex ecosystem of support for the arts and has expanded its leadership, advocacy, and training to also promote private sector support of the arts as well as professional development in state-of-the-art earned income techniques at its National Arts' Marketing Project Conference; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts brings together the arts policy interests of all its national partners, including the National Lieutenant Governors' Association, the Conference Board, and the American Association of School Administrators, at its National Arts' Policy Roundtable, which is co-convened by Robert Redford at the Sundance Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has been a leader in promoting active participation in arts education both in and out of school through its professional development work and national visibility PSA campaigns, "The Arts, Ask for More."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby congratulates and honors Americans for the Arts on fifty years of service in promoting arts and arts education throughout the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Americans for the Arts.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES