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In at least one respect incoming government in the United States seems to on to something. There is currently substantial political will to support the arts, including, specifically, arts in education. The following links are also listed below the article.

Early in his planning for his presidential run, Obama created an arts advisory committee, the National Arts Policy Committee, to work on a policy package regarding arts. The Committee included 33 leaders from across the country, including practicing artists, professional arts administrators, university, and K-12 teachers and was nearly half women.

[\[http://www.artsactionfund.org/pdf/artsvote/ObamaStatement3b.pdf\]](http://www.artsactionfund.org/pdf/artsvote/ObamaStatement3b.pdf)

The work of this group culminated in the Obama/Biden Champions for Arts and Culture Policy Overview.

[\[http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama_FactSheet_Arts.pdf\]](http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama_FactSheet_Arts.pdf)

In turn, the draft August 7, 2008 Democratic National Platform, Renewing America's Promise, on page 43, reads:

The arts

Investment in the arts is an investment in our creativity and cultural heritage, in our diversity, in our communities, and in our humanity. We support art in schools and increased public funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. We support the cultural exchange of artists around the world, spreading democracy and renewing America's status as a cultural and artistic center. [\[http://www.c-span.org/pdf/draft-2008-democratic-national-platform.pdf\]](http://www.c-span.org/pdf/draft-2008-democratic-national-platform.pdf)

Evidence for the seriousness of the intent of the new president and his administration to focus on the arts and culture is found in the inclusion of an arts and humanities transition team as part of the transition process.

During the run up to the election and through the election itself, arts advocacy groups pushed for recognition of the arts and encouraged people to vote for the person with the best – in this instance, the only – arts platform.

[\[http://www.americansforthearts.org/get_involved/advocate.asp\]](http://www.americansforthearts.org/get_involved/advocate.asp)

After his success, president-elect Obama continued to answer questions about his intentions regarding arts and culture, for instance on a December 7th Meet the Press.

[\[http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/audio_video/obama12_08.asp\]](http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/audio_video/obama12_08.asp)

Arts advocacy groups keep track of votes and positions on the arts and provide links for interested persons to seek more information

[\[http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/001.asp\]](http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/001.asp) &

<http://www.womenarts.org/news/september2008news.htm> - policies], as well as presenting policy statements themselves.

[http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/legislative_news/obama_transition.pdf] Canadian comment can be found on the View on Canadian Art [<http://viewoncanadianart.com/2008/11/05/voca-applaudsobamas-arts-platform/>]

One interesting proposal that the Obama team has floated relates to an “Artists Corps,” which is described in campaign literature as follows:

Create an artist corps: Barak Obama supports the creation of an “Artists Corps” of young artists trained to work in low-income schools and their communities. Studies in Chicago have demonstrated that test scores improved faster for students enrolled in low-income schools that link arts across the curriculum than scores for students in schools lacking such programs.

[<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=97963041>]

The first nine links listed below will lead you to more information about these and other points and ideas about the arts that appear on the agenda of the new government in the United States.

[<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentAreaofFocus/ArtsParticipation/Pages/cultivating-demand-for-the-arts.aspx>] is to a publication listed on a non-profit’s web site. The Wallace Foundation supports arts participation, among other goals.

Links:

1. National Arts Policy Committee
<http://www.artsactionfund.org/pdf/artsvote/ObamaStatement3b.pdf>
2. Obama/Biden – Champions for Arts and Culture
http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama_FactSheet_Arts.pdf
3. Draft Democratic National Platform
<http://www.c-span.org/pdf/draft-2008-democratic-national-platform.pdf>
4. Americans for the Arts
http://www.americansforthearts.org/get_involved/advocate.asp
5. Meet the Press Video
http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/audio_video/obama12_08.asp
6. ArtsVote
<http://www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/001.asp>
<http://www.womenarts.org/news/september2008news.htm> - policies
7. Americans for the Arts Policy Brief

- http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/get_involved/advocacy/legislative_news/obama_transition.pdf
8. View on Canadian Art
<http://viewoncanadianart.com/2008/11/05/voca-applaudsobamas-arts-platform/>
 9. Artists Corps
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=97963041>
 10. Cultivating Demand for the Arts
<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentAreasofFocus/ArtsParticipation/Pages/cultivating-demand-for-the-arts.aspx>