



Association of Art Museum Directors

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I would like to congratulate all the winners of the election on November 2, and welcome the new members of Congress, governors, and other civic leaders to their posts.

As has been widely reported by the news media, the results changed many officeholders around the U.S., and in certain ways tilts the balance of power in a different direction. These changes provide a good moment to remind ourselves that the arts are for everyone, regardless of political affiliation.

American art museums serve millions of adults and children each year, often for free or at [low fees](#) made possible by a range of philanthropic sources. More to the point, we may ask for an admission fee, but we don't ask your party affiliation. Many of those same museum visitors provided more than \$160,000,000 in donations through membership programs alone, and more than 2,600,000 hours of volunteer service. For more statistics on how art museums serve their communities, see our ["Fast Facts" document on the AAMD website](#).

And, of course, our institutions also receive support from individual philanthropists with interests across the political spectrum—committed citizens who donate their time and their money to ensure our museums are open, exciting, and engaged with the needs of our communities. A recent report in the *Los Angeles Times* detailed just how committed [donors are to the arts](#) and they, too, do so regardless of political affiliation or interest.

There is no big secret here: support for the arts has always been widespread, because the arts inspire and enrich us. We hope those newly elected to office, as well as returning incumbents, will find time over the next few weeks to visit their local art museum, or symphony, or theater, or any other arts organization of their choice, to be reminded of the tremendous value the arts bring to every community in the US.

Kaywin Feldman
President, AAMD
Director and President, Minneapolis Institute of Arts