

AFM Legislative Alert

Dear Orlando,

Every year, Arts Advocacy Day brings together a vast array of activists from America's creative, artistic, civic and cultural communities to highlight issues that face the nation's artistic creators and stewards. The American Federation of Musicians is proud to once again be a National Cosponsor of this important event that will take place on March 13-14 in Washington, DC. A schedule of events that are planned for Arts Advocacy Day can be found on the website for Americans for the Arts: <http://www.artsusa.org/events/2006/aad/007.asp>

There are three issues that are of great importance to the AFM that will be addressed as part of Arts Advocacy Day this year. They are:

1. Increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Education's Arts in Education program
2. Allowing creators to receive a fair market tax deduction for any work that they donate to a charitable organization
3. Improving the visa processing procedure for foreign guest artists

This is your opportunity to have your voice, the voice of the professional musician, be heard by key members of Congress on the issues that effect America's creative community. I strongly encourage anyone who is able to come out to Washington between March 13 – 14 to do so. If you are able to participate in this year's Arts Advocacy Day, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Hal Ponder
Director of Government Relations
American Federation of Musicians