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Subject: Statement on the arts

## Chris Christie Supports the Arts

Chris Christie believes in the important contribution that the arts make to the uniqueness of our state. He believes in the value of the arts to connect, engage and inspire our citizens. He understands the arts also provide our children with opportunities to create, explore and unleash their own creative abilities... skills that will serve them well in many aspects of their lives. Chris Christie also understands that the arts are one of the places where personal politics should be left behind and the beauty, joy and inspiration of the arts be shared by all of our citizens. The arts in New Jersey not only help unite us, they help define us. This benefit, alone, is reason enough to support the arts in our great state.

But there is much more to the arts. The arts and history are a vibrant economic engine generating more than \$2 billion in economic activity and employing more than 80,000 people across the state - making the cultural community one of our largest employers. Cultural events draw millions of patrons not only to our museums and theaters... but to our restaurants, parking lots, and hotels. Beyond the cultural benefit, providing the proper support and infrastructure for a thriving cultural community just makes good business sense.

The arts make good educational sense as well. Arts education helps our children develop the skills needed to be successful in a rapidly changing world. The needs of the 21st century workforce require our students to process creativity and develop an innovative mind. We are educating our children today for industries and businesses that have yet to be invented. In this new environment, creativity and innovation will be as important as the ability to read, write and multiply. Arts education is one of the key ways to unleash the creative capacities in our young people.

Chris Christie believes that Jon Corzine has circumvented the laws requiring the arts to be funded at certain levels. He believes statutory mandates for the funding of the arts should be followed.

Chris Christie, speaking at the WBGO debate in Newark on October 22nd -  
“The legislature passed a law saying this is to be a dedicated funding stream to the arts, and I think it's a very simple matter - the law should be followed. It should not be circumvented in that regard. We need to comply with the law that the Legislature passed in 2003. And if you've dedicated a portion, as we did, of the hotel motel tax to funding the arts, the arts deserve to be funded in that way. And I will tell you this: you're right about the arts being an economic engine in this state. They absolutely are. We are in the shadow of the NJPAC right here. And we know if you come down here, as my wife and I often do, to see performances, you know what a night at the NJPAC does to this area of the city of Newark, to its economic vitality, to the restaurants, to the bars, to all of the people who vend in this area. It really brings it alive. And the fact is that is what we

need to be doing more of, not less of. But all we need to do is follow the law. And the law has been pretty simple and pretty straight forward. That's why Governor Kean spoke out, the chairman of my campaign, spoke out forcefully against the diverting of those funds because it is bad for New Jersey. But also because it isn't in accordance with the law. So I think we just need to say if the state's done it this way and promised to the people of the state that it would be used that way, we should use the money that way and should not divert it. And in a Christie Administration we would not divert it.”