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Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (1979-1992): Report 02

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

R.I. STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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IONA B. DOBBINS

A FACT SHEET FOR THE ARTS

1. In 1985 the fiscal impact of the State's non-profit arts organizations exceeded \$125,000,000.
2. During the same period more than 1,850,000 people attended Rhode Island arts events.
3. Despite these impressive statistics, Rhode Island was 31st in the nation in its support of the arts and has moved to only 25th with the additional \$100,000 included for Fiscal Year 1987. We used to be 7th in the nation! We have one of the highest per capita representations of artists of any population in the country.
4. We recently received statistics compiled for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington which shows that even with our current increase (FY 87 \$599,854) we are among the lowest states and territories in growth in state appropriation during the past ten years (FY 77 - FY 87). In fact, only three states plus the Northern Marianas Islands, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands are lower.
5. Our goal is a \$1,000,000 state appropriation by 1992. (A \$1,000,000 appropriation would represent only 9/100's of 1 percent of a \$1.1 billion state budget for its cultural investment.) Our priorities are:
 - a. To increase our grants to Rhode Island's arts producing and arts exhibiting organizations. We have actually had to reduce our total grants support over the past several years. In 1986, for example, we had \$300,000 in requests for arts projects and only \$84,000 available.
 - b. To assist Rhode Island's arts organizations and artists to increase public awareness of arts activities and their benefits to the State, to increase awareness among arts organizations of networking possibilities and publicity programming for their programs, to increase awareness of marketing and technical assistance possibilities for all groups.
 - c. To increase support for major Arts Council programs such as Folk Arts which is regarded as a model among states' programs.

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- d. To increase assistance to individual artists to ensure that Rhode Island will continue to be perceived of as a positive environment for the arts.
6. Our methods will include:
- a. Working with the Governor and the Legislature to gain support for the Arts Council appropriation.
 - b. Seeking creative sources of funding which could also increase public awareness of the arts such as obtaining the proceeds on an annual basis of a defined period of the State Lottery which would ideally provide not only significant funds but the opportunity for a creative public awareness campaign by designing an "art game."
 - c. Examining alternative sources of individual and corporate funding which do not compete with similar funding requests from our grantees.
 - d. Encouraging the Governor's support for Percent for Arts legislation, which would provide high visibility for the arts throughout the state.