

BIOGRAPHY OF JAY H. DICK

Jay Dick is the Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts where he works to educate and inform elected officials about the value of the arts and culture. As a twenty-five-year veteran of K Street, Capitol Hill, the private sector, and federal, state, and local campaigns, Jay possesses a tremendous body of knowledge in the field of arts policy, government, the legislative process, and grassroots advocacy. He is a nationally recognized speaker on these topics having designed and overseen many initiatives. Jay is regularly interviewed by the media and testifies in front of legislative bodies as an expert on these topics and on Americans for the Arts' legislative positions.



As a native of Colfax, IA (population 2,200), Jay has a deep understanding of how the arts and culture can be transformation to rural America. He currently serves as a program lead and subject matter expert for the National Association of Counties' (NACO) Creative Counties Initiative that is funded through the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and focuses on rural counties. Further, he has worked extensively around the topic of using the arts to promote city livability in small and midsize cities.

With the mandate to positively affect the policies that promote state and local funding and expansion of the arts, Jay works closely with the Americans for the Arts' members, local arts agencies, state arts advocacy organizations and other key stakeholders to accomplish this goal. Further, he oversees Americans for the Arts' Public Partnerships and works closely with the members and staffs of the National Governors Association, National Lt. Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislators, National Association of Counties, The United State Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities and ICMA (city/county managers).

Jay has worked at Americans for the Arts for almost 15 years. Prior, he worked for Capitol Advantage, a high-tech advocacy company; the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM); and the Society of Plastics Industry (SPI). Jay spent the 1996 campaign cycle working as the Field Director for a congressional campaign in Iowa's 3rd District and began his career with the United States Senate where he served on the personal staff of Tom Harkin (IA) and then Frank Lautenberg (NJ).

Jay was appointed in 2014 by Virginia Governor McAuliffe to serve a five-year term as a Commissioner for the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Until recently, he also served on the Board of ArtsFairfax where he chaired their advocacy committee.

Jay received his B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in American History from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa in 1993.

Advocacy for the arts is his job but also his passion.