



## **Supporting Pennsylvania's Arts And Cultural Heritage**

Pennsylvania boasts a rich heritage of arts and culture. From the Cradle of Liberty in Philadelphia to the battlefields of Gettysburg, from the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh to the Pennsylvania Youth Ballet in Bethlehem—the Commonwealth is home to a exciting array of talented artists, exceptional visual and performing arts organizations, and significant private and public museums and historic sites. Tom Corbett understands the intrinsic value of arts and culture as well as the educational and social benefits that arts and cultural opportunities provide to Pennsylvanians. He recognizes that arts and culture is an industry that makes an important contribution to local economies and to the statewide tourism industry.

Tom Corbett is determined to create greater opportunities for arts and culture to flourish in Pennsylvania. He recognizes that a vibrant artistic and cultural community is an important component in determining a region's "quality of life." Arts and culture communities are a key to attracting and developing new businesses and keeping existing businesses in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's arts and culture industry generates more than \$2 billion in annual economic activity and provides full-time employment for more than 61,000 Pennsylvanians. Each arts and cultural event impacts other related businesses, such as restaurants, retail shopping, hotels and parking. Tom Corbett recognizes that – in both cities and small towns – when arts and cultural organizations thrive, local economies reap the benefits. He also understands that arts and cultural organizations and arts-related businesses can be the impetus for revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and communities.

There are countless studies that link exposure to the arts at a young age to enhanced learning ability. Arts education improves self-esteem, generates pride in cultural and family heritage, teaches self-discipline, and develops the creative-thinking process. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote the importance of a well-rounded education for our children. He will explore options that could provide funding for arts education programs.

Pennsylvania truly is the Keystone State, and its museums and historic sites detail the commonwealth's important role in every period of our nation's history. Tom Corbett is committed to preserving the heritage of Pennsylvania through its private museums and historic

associations, and through the state museum system. He understands the strong link between our cultural heritage and the tourism industry.

Tom and Susan Corbett are long-time supporters of arts and culture. Through Mrs. Corbett's professional and volunteer involvement with various organizations – including the Gettysburg Foundation, Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures, the Carnegie Museums and Library in Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts – and through Tom Corbett's life-long interest in American history, they have demonstrated their appreciation and understanding of arts and cultural heritage. And as parents and former teachers, they understand that a passion and a commitment for arts and culture begin at a young age.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will:

- Support Pennsylvania's vibrant, diverse artistic communities
- Preserve Pennsylvania's vast array of historical venues
- Promote Pennsylvania as a leader in arts and cultural heritage tourism

### **SUPPORT PENNSYLVANIA'S VIBRANT, DIVERSE ARTISTIC COMMUNITIES**

By continuing support for various arts programs and creating an atmosphere that strengthens the artistic community, Tom Corbett will support and advocate for the arts. As Governor, Tom Corbett has a plan to maintain and expand Pennsylvania's artistic climate. This plan includes:

- ✓ Protect Pennsylvania's art communities through tax policy. Tom Corbett believes that the arts should be easily accessible to all Pennsylvania residents. An increased sales tax on tickets to cultural or art performances would discourage attendance and deprive many Pennsylvanians of the opportunity for cultural enrichment. Having signed a pledge not to raise taxes, Tom Corbett will honor his commitment to protecting Pennsylvania taxpayers and the arts and culture community.
- ✓ Support state funding for the arts through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue funding arts organizations and arts programming through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He will work with the Council to support funding opportunities and to create and implement strategies that strengthen the commonwealth's artistic and cultural life.
- ✓ Encourage public-private partnerships for support of the arts. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support the partnering of public and private entities to increase funding for the arts. By having small businesses and communities work together with government agencies, the arts will have many opportunities to thrive. He will encourage businesses to support arts and culture education initiatives through the continuation of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program.

- ✓ Advocate for and support the arts and arts integration. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote and support a quality, well-rounded education for children, including a foundation in the arts. He also will create partnerships with nonprofit organizations to promote opportunities for Pennsylvania's artists and arts consumers; encourage public-private partnerships for additional support and funding; and connect Pennsylvania residents to the arts through supporting and attending cultural events.

## **PRESERVE PENNSYLVANIA'S VAST ARRAY OF HISTORICAL VENUES**

Pennsylvania is blessed with countless historical sites and museums that preserve the rich history of our commonwealth. Not only do these venues promote pride in the history and diversity of Pennsylvania, they also are an important part of Pennsylvania's economy and its vibrant tourism industry. In order to keep history alive, Tom Corbett understands that we must protect our historical entities. As Governor, Tom Corbett has a plan to preserve the numerous historical venues Pennsylvania has to offer.

- ✓ Support the preservation of Pennsylvania's historical entities. As Governor, Tom Corbett will initiate, encourage and support historic preservation efforts of our private museums and public historic sites. Pennsylvania has a vast array of historical resources that gives Pennsylvania its unique identity. It is important to protect and preserve these important components of Pennsylvania and our nation's past.
- ✓ Support the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to champion historic preservation and education. Tom Corbett will create a task force to review and evaluate the current inventory and make recommendations for the revitalization of our state museum system.
- ✓ Champion public-private partnerships to support important historical museums, associations and sites. As Governor, Tom Corbett will collaborate with businesses in communities across Pennsylvania to ensure museums and sites that focus on Pennsylvania's rich history and its ethnic and cultural diversity receive proper support.

## **PROMOTE PENNSYLVANIA AS A LEADER IN ARTS & CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM**

Tourism is second only to agriculture as Pennsylvania's largest economic industry. Tom Corbett recognizes that arts and cultural heritage organizations and sites are critical to this industry,

and he is committed to tourism as a prosperous and growing source of economic development. As Governor, Tom Corbett will:

- ✓ Stimulate Pennsylvania's economy through the tourism industry. As Governor, Tom Corbett will be a vocal advocate for the tourism industry. With Tom Corbett as Governor and Susan Corbett as First Lady, arts and cultural tourism will have a friend and advocate in government.
- ✓ Monitor and adjust to tourism trends and opportunities. As Governor, Tom Corbett will ensure that Pennsylvania's tourism marketing programs stay up-to-date so that the industry can attract a larger, more diversified audience. By incorporating the use of the Internet, social media and tourism promotion agencies, Pennsylvania can encourage both visitors and residents to participate in arts and cultural heritage opportunities.