

Please provide a short description of the business

Arizona Public Service was founded 5 years after Tombstone's gunfight at OK Corral and nearly a quarter-century before Arizona became a state. They have served Arizona for more than 125 years and are Arizona's largest and longest-serving electric company, generating safe, affordable and reliable electricity for more than 1.2 million retail and residential customers in 11 of Arizona's 15 counties.

Their corporate vision is to create a sustainable energy future for Arizona. The use of innovative smart technologies, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are key components of their efforts to meet that vision. They make decisions with the goal of creating long-term corporate value and adhering to their Code of Ethics and Business Practices. They consider their societal, economic and environmental impact, now and for generations to come.

APS takes great pride in delivering safe, reliable energy that meets the needs of their customers and the communities they serve. But they also understand that their responsibilities go beyond that. They strive to do what's right for the people and prosperity of Arizona – today, tomorrow and for generations to come. In 2015, APS donated \$9.8 million to charitable programs in Arizona. Their giving is funded entirely by their shareholders and never impacts APS customer utility rates.

What contributions has the nominee made to the development and growth of the arts in Arizona?

From Yuma to the Grand Canyon and with significant funding in between, APS invests in the arts through its corporate and foundation dollars. In 2015, APS provided nearly \$900,000 to arts and culture organizations in Arizona. Total giving over the years exceeds \$16 million to thousands of Arizona arts organizations.

Students and community members throughout the state see the benefits through uplifting performances and breathtaking art work. A few examples of APS' generosity in 2015 include:

Support to the Herberger Theater in downtown Phoenix provided nearly 600 children with an opportunity to attend a field trip to the theater after participating in a seven-week introduction to the arts program in their preschool or Head Start classroom. During the field trip 4- and 5-year-old preschoolers sang, danced, giggled and wiggled as they interacted with musicians and ballet performers on stage.

As part of an ongoing sponsorship with the Phoenix Symphony and ASU Gammage, 350 current and former servicemen and their supporters attended Pops concerts and Broadway performances sponsored by APS.

APS supported music festivals in Flagstaff and Prescott which raised funds to conduct community and educational arts programs in those communities.

The corporation annually sponsors the Celebration of Art at the South Rim of Grand Canyon. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to the goal of funding a permanent art venue on the South Rim that will preserve and showcase the spectacular masterpieces of art owned by Grand Canyon National Park and the Grand Canyon Association.

Describe the personal involvement of this business' executives and employees

In addition to funding, APS top executives sit on the boards of directors for Arizona's premiere arts organizations – Heard Museum, Musical Instrument Museum, Herberger Center for the Performing Arts, Valley Youth Theatre, The Phoenix Symphony, the Desert Botanical Garden, Arizona Ballet and Childsplay, among others. APS/Pinnacle West Chairman and CEO, Don Brandt, is a Trustee of Phoenix Art Museum since 2011.

APS employees volunteer for numerous cultural events throughout the state from serving as ushers for Theater Works in Peoria to donating time to Free Arts of Arizona. APS ranked second in the state for volunteerism last year with 147,000 hours donated to Arizona nonprofits.

Why does the nominee merit the award?

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How long has the business supported the arts in Arizona, and what unique contribution has it made to its local community and/or Arizona?

APS has supported arts and culture in Arizona since its inception. A unique collaboration in 2015 included a partnership with the Arizona Commission on the Arts to bring "Arizona Art Tank" competitions to four Arizona communities, where top arts applicants pitched innovative arts-focused ventures to a review panel comprising arts, small business, corporate and legislative leaders. In 2016, APS will again partner with the Commission to bring Creative Aging programs to rural Arizona.

