

# Finding Your Voice in the Policy Arena

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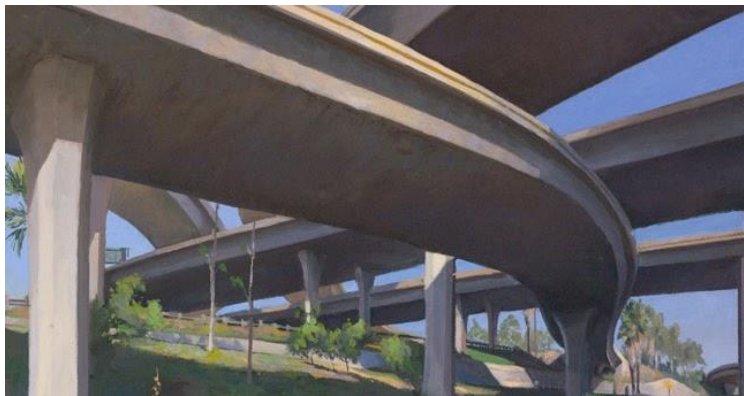
# What is Policy Engagement?

- Focus on changing policies of systems or institutions through government programs, budgets, regulations, laws, or judicial decisions
- Can be at institutional, local, state, or national level
- Does not have to be partisan
- Advocacy: any activity that supports or opposes a cause or issue
- Lobbying: communications intended to influence specific legislation



# Common Entry Points to Advocacy

1. Critical learning moment
2. Passion for a cause
3. Crisis moment within an issue/community
4. Desire to deepen/broaden impact
5. Desire to deploy assets beyond money



# Five Practical Ways to Influence Policy

1. Focus on a (specific) issue
2. Fund research to move the issue forward
3. Recruit (or be) unexpected messengers
4. Engage government (early)
5. Prepare for the long game (beyond the vote)

