



March 21, 2017, is National Arts Advocacy Day.

Organized by Americans for the Arts

A large number of citizens of and visitors to Florida request your leadership as a Florida U.S. Congressional member to please

- 1. Continue bipartisan support with a budget of \$155 million (FY 2011 level) for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2018 Interior Appropriation bill to preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across Florida and the U.S.**

The NEA is a valuable federal agency that celebrates over 50 years and is achieving its mission *to strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. Its vision is a nation in which every American benefits from arts engagement, and every community recognizes and celebrates its aspirations and achievements through the arts.*

Its mission and vision are primarily fulfilled through direct grants to arts organizations across the country that

- ▶ reach annually more than 20 million people who attend over 33,000 NEA-supported live arts events/programs and reach an additional 300 million people through television, radio, and cable broadcasts;
- ▶ impact almost 16,000 communities engaged in NEA-sponsored projects, many who benefit from touring and outreach initiatives;
- ▶ generate more than \$500 million in matching support — the ratio of private and other public funds match every NEA grant dollar 9:1 that far surpasses the required non-federal match of at least one to one.

PER CAPITA AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATES: The NEA's current budget is \$148 million — just 0.004 percent of the federal budget and 47 cents per capita, and 40% of NEA funds are distributed through annual partnership grants to state arts agencies. The Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs is Florida's official state arts agency and receives this annual partnership NEA grant.

JOBS: The nonprofit arts industry supports 4.13 million jobs in the arts and related industries.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT: The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product at 4.2 percent, which amounts to an impressive \$729 billion. Arts and culture spending has a ripple effect on the overall economy. For example, for every 100 jobs created from new demand for the arts, 62 additional jobs are created.

NEA GRANTS IN FLORIDA: Refer to enclosed list of NEA grants awarded to Florida from 2014 through 2017.

- 2. Support full funding for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and also enact legislation reauthorizing IMLS.**



- 3. Preserve incentives for charitable giving** by protecting the full scope and value of the tax deduction for all forms of charitable gifts, and ensure that changes made under tax reform will encourage more giving by more Americans.
- 4. Enact the Artist-Museum Partnership Act**, which would allow artists to take an income-tax deduction for fair market value of their work when they donate it to charitable collecting institutions.
- 5. Maintain current-funding levels of \$445 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.**
- 6. Related to ARTS EDUCATION:**
 - A. Appropriate \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs** in the FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Assistance for Arts Education programs are authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).
 - B. We urge Congress to strengthen equitable access to arts education in a Well-Rounded Education through the following provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):**
 - ▶ Fully fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
 - ▶ Make explicit the opportunity for the arts to help achieve Title I objectives.
 - ▶ Thoroughly implement the professional development opportunities for arts educators and school leaders in Title II, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program that includes the arts, and the expanded STEM program eligibility for the arts in Title IV, Part A.
 - C. Also, related to arts education**
 - ▶ To ensure equitable access to a Well-Rounded education for all students, state accountability plans should annually document and publicly report the status and condition of arts education and other subjects.
 - ▶ Flexibility should not absolve charter schools from presenting a full, balanced education for every child that includes the arts.
 - ▶ The Department of Education's data collection efforts must be strengthened by systematically including pre-K-12 arts education in the School and Staffing Survey, the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), and other data instruments.

National Arts Advocacy Day, March 21, 2017

page 3 of 3



7. **Co-sponsor** the CREATE Act in order to invest in the country's workforce and creative economy.
8. **Appropriate \$110 million to the Office of Citizen Exchanges** within the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs within the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.
 - ▶ Direct the State Department to dedicate increased resources to, and increase operational capacity within, the Cultural Programs Division to strengthen its ability to oversee grants and programs. Despite increases overall for the Office of Citizen Exchanges, the Cultural Programs Department is funded at lower levels now than six years ago. This reduction also includes competitively awarded programs and those run by the State Department.
 - ▶ Encourage the State Department to evaluate and publicly report on the impact, value, and success of arts diplomacy as part of its strategies to build cross-cultural understanding.
9. **Enact the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision**, which will require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reduce the total-processing time for petitions filed by, or on behalf of, nonprofit arts-related organizations. Work in cooperation with the Administration to make immediate improvements at USCIS and State Department so that artists visa processing will be accessible, reliable, and efficient.
10. **Support programs within the Administration on Aging (AoA) included in the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016** that provide access to creative arts therapies and artist-directed activities for well elderly and individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias.
11. **Support access to creative arts therapies interventions in behavioral health treatments and services** under Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Programs, such as the Medicare Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) and Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS).
12. **Support H.R. 102, Expanding Care for Veterans Act**, sponsored by Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA) to improve access to evidence-based complementary alternative treatments for veterans, including creative arts therapies.
13. **Provide flexibility through infrastructure legislation to state transit authorities** to permit the incorporation of art into federally-funded transit facilities.
14. **Please join the following if you have not: House Congressional Arts Caucus or the Senate Cultural Caucus where applicable and the House STEAM Caucus if you have not.** Through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, ARTS and mathematics), the ARTS connect engineering and math.



For additional and more detailed information on any of these issues, please refer to the Americans for the Arts 2017 *Congressional Arts Handbook* that your office received a copy of this week or e-mail the Florida Cultural Alliance at info@FLCA.net.