



SOCIETY FOR THE ARTS IN HEALTHCARE

2437 15th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009 • TEL 202/299-9770 • FAX 202/299-9887 • www.theSAH.org

April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

Thank you for the increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts in fiscal year 2008. Recognizing the extreme pressures on the Federal Budget; however, it is critical to continue the momentum nonetheless.

Almost every American will experience a health issue that needs to be addressed by our healthcare system sometime during their lifetime. The effects of the arts used as an integral part of healthcare are profound, significantly affecting patient care and cost savings as well as safety and healthy environments. In our landmark study of over 2,000 hospitals, *Cultures of Care: A Study of Arts Programs in U.S. Hospitals*, half reported using arts programming to create healing environments, support patient mental and emotional recovery, communicate health information, and foster positive working conditions.

On behalf of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, a National Co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008, I urge you to support:

- Increasing funding to the National Endowment for the Arts to \$176 million for the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America, including arts in healthcare.
- Legislation that allows artists to take a fair-market value deduction on their donated works, as hospitals depend on these donations to improve their healthcare environment.
- Legislation to reinstate the IRA Charitable Rollover provision, allowing individuals to roll funds from their IRA accounts to charities, which will contribute to the well-being of arts in healthcare programming and other non-profit efforts that serve the public.

The **Society for the Arts in Healthcare** is a non-profit 501c3 membership organization based in Washington, DC. Founded in 1991, we are dedicated to advancing the arts as an integral component of healthcare. Funded in part by the National Endowment of the Arts and Johnson & Johnson, the Society for the Arts in Healthcare provides program and professional development support through resources and information, a re-granting program, consultant services, and the convening of conferences and symposia to a wide range of arts and healthcare institutions.

The Society counts over 1,700 members from 49 states and 12 countries. Our members represent diverse fields: healthcare decision makers, doctors, nurses, architects, interior designers, researchers, and the artistic community.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Anita B. Boles
Executive Director

Dedicated to advancing the arts as integral to healthcare