

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson:

We urge you to support a funding level of **\$176 million for the National Endowment for the Arts in the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill** to support the NEA's core mission to bring the arts to every American. The NEA was last funded at this amount in 1992, and has never recovered from a 40 percent budget cut in FY 1996.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA received \$155 million in FY09 funding. This funding will help the NEA continue running its extremely successful programs, including *Access to Artistic Excellence*, *the Big Read*, *Challenge America*, *Learning in the Arts* and *Federal/State Partnerships*. In FY 2008, the NEA awarded nearly \$122 million of appropriated funds through more than 2,200 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts. Each NEA grant leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. Each year, the arts industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 5.7 million full-time jobs. At the same time, this industry returns \$12.6 billion to the federal government in income taxes. The National Governor's Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognize the enormous value of the arts in our communities and regional economies. Arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits to states and communities: they create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with estimates of more than \$30 billion annually in overseas sales. From the work of nonprofit arts agencies to the impact of cultural tourism, the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.

The NEA supports life-long learning in the arts. The NEA's education programs have helped to sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to help close the education achievement gap and also benefit children and adults in many important ways throughout their lives. Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point

averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.

We strongly urge you to increase NEA funding to \$176 million in the FY 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. By approving this increase, you will strengthen the NEA's ability to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request, and hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Tammy Baldwin

Patricia Schroeder

John F. Filner

Mark E. Souder

Bill Pascrell Jr.

D. B. Foy

John Dingell

Leah Wadler

Todd R. Platts

Mike Law

Jim Mathis

Wm. Lacy Clay

Ellen Fausch

Lucy

Troy W. Moore

Diana DeBetto

Candice B. Meloy

Jack Rehan

Donald M. Payne

Robert Wash

Paul Bluman

Ode E. Childer

Danny H. Davis

Red New

Benny Sutton

Yona K. Hatt

Mazie K. Hiroo

Raid H. Hijikawa

P. Hodas

Ben A. Wolman

Howard H. Berman

Lynn Woolsey

Vernon J. Ehlers

Eliot L. Engel

Pin Van Hollen

Michael H. Michael

Nicki Tsenge

Neil Abernethy

Michael E. Caputo

John Snow

Shelley Berkley

Bill May
Jim M. Runn
Mike Shomper

Hyd Dost

Jim Sangevin

Paul Tonlo

John Hall

Mary Jo Filroy

Alced. Hastings

Col. John

Susan A. Davis

Herk Johnson

W. J. A
Kathy Castor

Doris O. Matsci

Pete Stark

Bob A. Brady

Rush Holt

Dave Deback

Delvin L. Watt

~~Jack Reilly~~
~~W. J. A.~~

Bob Etheridge

Bob Eith

Sam Farr
and

Jim McAnulty
MCDJR

Dennis J. Kucinich

D. Beardsley

Lair Capps

Frank Rosten

John P. Sol

Mind E. McMullen

Leonard Lance

FY10 National Endowment for the Arts Signatories

1. Slaughter, Louise
2. Platts, Todd Russell
3. Tauscher, Ellen O.
4. Pascrell, Bill Jr.
5. Baldwin, Tammy
6. Kucinich, Dennis
7. Ross, Mike
8. Matheson, Jim
9. Filner, Bob
10. Conyers, John Jr.
11. Clay, Wm. Lacy
12. Crowley, Joseph
13. Green, Gene
14. Schakowsky, Janice D.
15. Rangel, Charles B.
16. Hastings, Alcee L.
17. Meeks, Gregory W.
18. DeGette, Diana
19. Nadler, Jerrold
20. Maloney, Carolyn
21. Dingell, John
22. Payne, Donald
23. Rahall, Nick J.
24. Watt, Mel
25. Blumenauer, Earl
26. Woolsey, Lynn C.
27. Wexler, Robert
28. Berman, Howard L.
29. Peterson, Collin C.
30. Waxman, Henry
31. Ehlers, Vernon J.
32. Engel, Eliot
33. Davis, Danny K.
34. Kildee, Dale E.
35. Moore, Dennis
36. Michaud, Michael
37. Walz, Timothy J.
38. Sutton, Betty
39. Van Hollen, Chris
40. Tsongas, Niki
41. Etheridge, Bob
42. Davis, Susan
43. Hirono, Mazie K.
44. Christensen, Donna M.
45. Abercrombie, Neil
46. Grijalva, Raul M.
47. Capuano, Michael E.
48. Spratt, Jr., John M.
49. Hodes, Paul
50. Kilroy, Mary Jo
51. Loeb sack, David
52. Hall, John
53. Holt, Rush
54. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank"
55. Miller, Brad
56. Farr, Sam
57. Capps, Lois
58. Pingree, Chellie
59. McDermott, Jim
60. Cleaver, Emanuel
61. McGovern, James P.
62. Yarmuth, John
63. Sarbanes, John
64. Murphy, Christopher
65. Berkley, Shelley
66. Doyle, Mike
67. McMahan, Michael E.
68. Castor, Kathy
69. Stark, Fortney Pete
70. Thompson, Mike
71. Matsui, Doris
72. Brady, Robert
73. Doggett, Lloyd
74. Tonko, Paul
75. Lance, Leonard
76. Langevin, James R.
77. Reichert, David G.