



April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Arts Alliance is pleased to once again be a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008. Each year we gather together as arts advocates to ask for your support on policies that recognize the importance of creativity in America.

The American Arts Alliance is a national network of more than 4,000 members comprising the professional, nonprofit performing arts and presenting fields. For 30 years, the American Arts Alliance has been the premiere advocate for America's professional nonprofit arts organizations, artists and their publics before the US Congress and key policy makers. Through legislative and grassroots action, the American Arts Alliance advocates for national policies that recognize, enhance and foster the contributions the performing arts make to America.

On behalf of our 4000 members and the audiences they serve, we encourage you to enhance and strengthen the performing arts by supporting the following actions:

- **Increase Funding for the NEA** – We urge Congress to support a budget of \$176 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA nurtures the growth and artistic excellence of thousands of arts organizations and artists in every corner of the country.
- **Improve Visa Processing for Foreign Guest Artists**- We urge Congress to enact legislation that would reduce the total processing times for O and P nonprofit arts related visa petitions to a maximum of 45 days.
- **Increase Funding for Arts Education**- We urge Congress to support a budget of \$53 million for the Arts in Education programs at the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Increase Funding for Cultural Exchange** - We urge Congress to support a \$10 million increase for the Cultural Programs Division of the State Department's Office of Citizen Exchanges
- **Improve Private Charitable Giving Incentives**- We urge Congress to permanently enact the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision which expired in December 2007.

We encourage you to support policies that support the performing arts in communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

Andrea Snyder  
Chair  
American Arts Alliance