



**March 13, 2018**

## **SUMMARY OF CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS**

### **Appropriations**

- ✓ Sign FY 2019 appropriations programmatic letters:
  - National Endowment for the Arts (House: Reps. Slaughter, D-NY and Lance, R-NJ. Senate: TBD) and support a funding level of **\$155 million** for the NEA.
  - IMLS Office of Museum Services (House: Reps. Tonko, D-NY, Lance, R-NJ, Slaughter, D-NY, and McKinley, R-WV. Senate: Sen. Gillibrand, D-NY) and support full funding of OMS at **\$38.6 million**.
- ✓ Support continued FY 2019 appropriations for:
  - Assistance for Arts Education at U.S. Dept. of Education (L-HHS-ED) at **\$30 million**.
  - Well-Rounded Education by fully funding (**\$1.6 billion**) Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG, Title IV)
  - After-School by fully funding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (**\$1.1 billion**)
  - Corporation for Public Broadcasting at current funding (**\$445 million**) and fully fund public media interconnection (**\$55 million**)
  - Office of Citizen Exchanges within the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at **\$115 million**.

### **Arts Education (K-12)**

- ✓ 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" and the expanded STEM program eligibility for the arts in Title IV, Part A.

### **Higher Education**

- ✓ Support efforts to improve the affordability and accessibility of higher education for all students, including continued access to Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs.
- ✓ Oppose varying financial aid based on future earning potential and ensure for-profit colleges, a substantial number of which offer arts degrees, are properly monitored to reduce their incentive to maximize profits over student success.

### **Tax Policy**

- ✓ Reinstate and expand incentives for charitable giving by enacting a universal charitable deduction available to all taxpayers.
- ✓ Enact the Artist-Museum Partnership Act (H.R. 1830, S. 931), which would allow artists to deduct the fair market value of their work when they donate it to charitable collecting institutions.
- ✓ Maintain the qualified performing artist tax deduction, artist eligibility in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the Historic Tax Credit, and the income tax exemption for private activity bonds, often employed to finance cultural infrastructure projects that benefit the public.
- ✓ Reinstate deductions for unreimbursed employee business expenses, which are substantial for artists.



### **Creative Economy, the Office of Museum Services (OMS), and Visa Policy**

- ✓ Cosponsor the CREATE Act (S.661, H.R. 1649) to invest in the country's workforce and creative economy, and recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community.
- ✓ Enact the Museum and Library Services Act of 2017 (S.2271), which would reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- ✓ Cosponsor the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act (S.2466), 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.
- ✓ Support efforts to extend FEMA tool replacement grants to self-employed workers via inclusion in FEMA-related legislation (e.g. disaster supplemental appropriation).

### **Arts in Health**

- ✓ Support programs within the Administration for Community Living that provide access to creative arts therapies and artist-directed activities for the elderly and individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- ✓ Support research funding for creative arts therapies and arts in health programs within federal agencies such as NIH and SAMHSA, as well as the Institute for Education Sciences within the Department of Education.
- ✓ Ensure that any healthcare legislation enacted preserves access to affordable healthcare coverage for artists and other creative occupations.

### **Arts and the Military**

- ✓ Support H.R. 102, Expanding Care for Veterans Act, to improve access to evidence-based complementary alternative treatments for veterans, including creative arts therapies.
- ✓ Support continued funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense for creative arts therapies services and artist-directed programs for veterans and active military.

### **Arts and Infrastructure**

- ✓ Enact the Saving Transit Art Resources (STAR) Act to reinstate flexibility and allow transit authorities to incorporate art into federally-funded transit projects and facilities.

### **Arts & Technology**

- ✓ Wireless technology: Urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide licenses and geo-location database protection to preserve nonprofit performing arts and education operations and their financial investments in technical equipment.
- ✓ Net neutrality: Overturn the FCC's "Restoring Internet Freedom" Order and restore net neutrality in order to preserve an open Internet where artists and creative entrepreneurs can reach potential audiences, build businesses, and contribute to culture.
- ✓ Music licensing: Allow music creators to earn fair compensation for their work, and oppose H. Con. Res. 13 and S. Con. Res. 6, the misleading "Local Radio Freedom Act," which puts members of Congress on the record against compensating performers for their work broadcasted on terrestrial radio.

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Members of the House of Representatives are encouraged to join the **Congressional Arts Caucus** and the **Congressional STEAM Caucus**. All Members of the Senate are encouraged to join the **Senate Cultural Caucus**.

*For the complete Legislative Issue Briefs and Statements, please visit: [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook)*