

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

We urge you to support a funding level of \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Interior Appropriations bill. **Federal investment in the arts provides all Americans with expanded opportunities to engage with the arts in each state and district.** The NEA reached its peak funding at \$176 million in FY92, and has never fully recovered from a 40 percent budget cut in FY96.

In addition to grants made to every Congressional district, national research, and critical partnerships with the states, the **Arts Endowment is at the forefront of a national effort to support arts and health in the military.** The launch of the Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network in October – an expanded partnership between the NEA and the Department of Defense – now further increases access to therapeutic arts activities in local communities for members of the military, veterans, and their families. Creative Forces continues the successful work of the NEA's Military Healing Arts Partnership to bring healing arts to more service members, veterans, and families in both clinical and community settings. As the NEA may continue to build existing programs into this network with federal investment, **every state will benefit from this program.**

With an overall budget increase of \$1.98 million to NEA's funding, as approved by Congress for FY16, the Creative Forces program has successfully expanded to additional clinical sites. **Growing and unmet demand among military treatment facilities for creative art therapy programs continues.** With the \$1.9 million increase in funding for FY17, which was also recommended and supported by the Committee, the NEA will be able to reach more of our service members and their families.

In addition to supporting our military service members, the NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of our communities. Arts and culture-related industries create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. These arts businesses represent 3.9 percent of all businesses and 1.9 percent of all employees, respectively. **America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with \$60 billion annually in overseas sales, creating a \$26 billion arts trade surplus.**

This past February, the Bureau of Economic Analysis found that the total dollar amount that **the arts and culture sector contributes** to the U.S. economy is **more than \$729 billion**, or 4.23 percent of the U.S.

Gross Domestic Product, more than construction (\$672B) or transportation and warehousing (\$510B). From the work of nonprofit arts organizations to the impact of cultural tourism, **the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.**

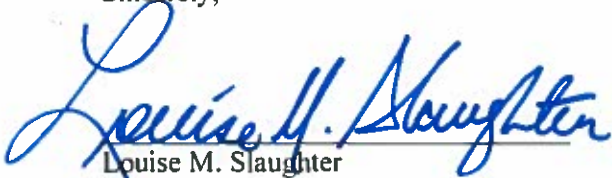
Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and multiplying effect across the nation as does the Arts Endowment. For every one dollar spent on direct grants, nearly nine non-federal dollars are matched, generating \$600 million in matching support while at the same time enriching our children and communities with access to the arts they might not otherwise have. Moreover, **forty percent of NEA's grant-making budget—approximately \$47 million in FY17—is re-granted through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.** Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

The requested funding for FY18 will help the NEA maintain its enormously successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Our Town*, *Challenge America*, *The Mayors' Institute on City Design*, *The Citizens Institute on Rural Design*, *Blue Star Museums*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *Art Works*, and *Poetry Out Loud*, which help the NEA reach every congressional district in the country, serving rural and urban communities; impacting veterans, businesses, and schools. In FY15, the NEA granted \$120 million in appropriated funds through over 2,400 grants in nearly 16,000 communities in every congressional district in the country.

The arts also play a significant role in equalizing educational opportunities. **Students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores and lower drop-out rates.** 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.

**We strongly urge you to support NEA funding at \$155 million in the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior Appropriations bill.** By approving this level of funding, you will maintain 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.

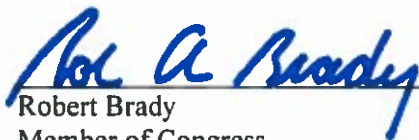
Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



Jerrald Nadler  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



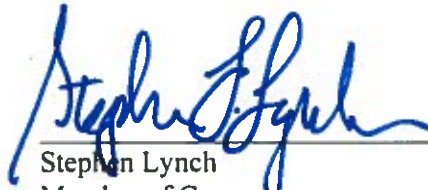
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



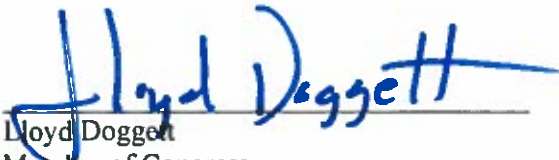
Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress



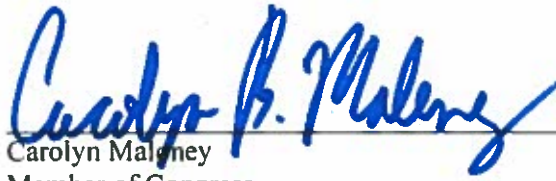
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



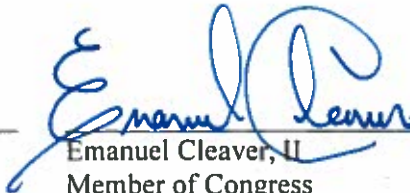
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

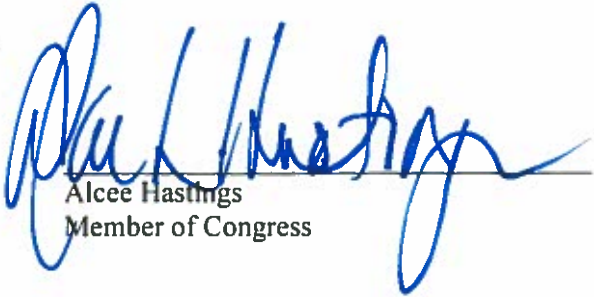




Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



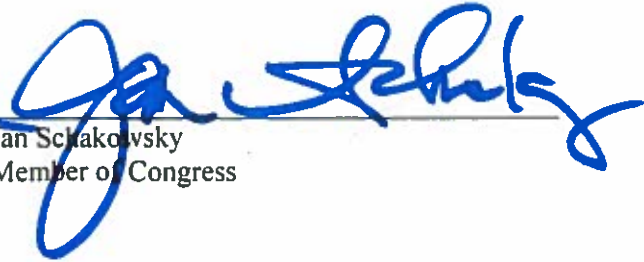
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Michael Turner  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Luis Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress




Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

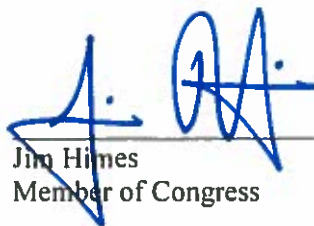
  
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



Bradley B. Schneider  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress





Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea Porter  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



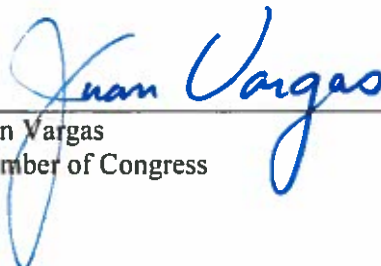
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



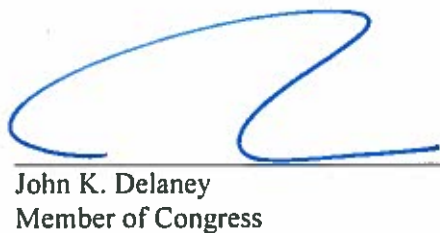
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



John J. Faso  
Member of Congress



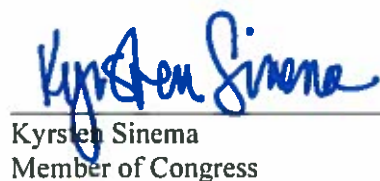
John Katko  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



James Langevin  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



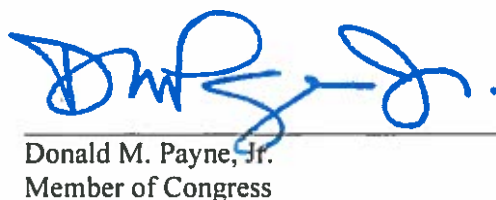
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress




Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, PhD  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



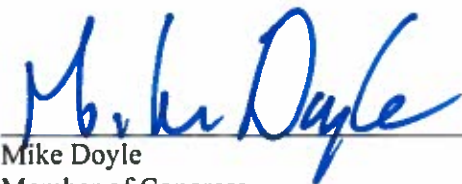
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



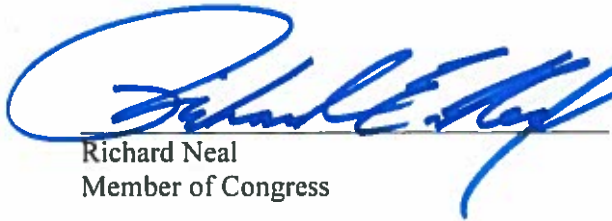
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



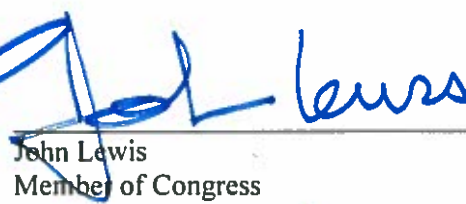
Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



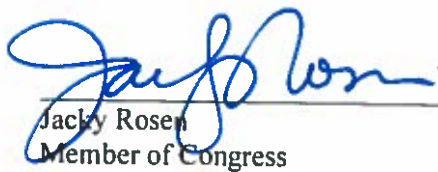
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



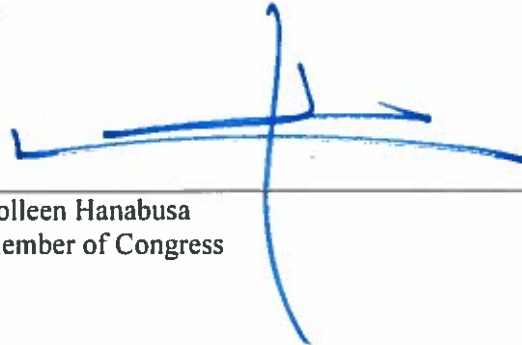
Richard Neal  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



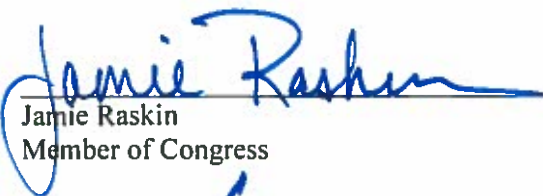
Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress





Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



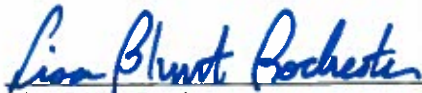
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Thomas Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress