

Support International Cultural Activity

Retain Access to Visas for Artists Impacted by Executive Order

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order to implement new screening, visa issuance, and admissions procedures for individuals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The far-reaching scope of the order means that, for at least 90 days following the order, guest artists from these countries would be unable to enter the United States, including those who already possess an approved O or P non-immigrant visa.

American arts organizations and artists—in communities large and small across our country—provide an important public service and advance international diplomacy by presenting foreign guest artists from across the globe in performances, educational events, and cultural programs that are highly valued by U.S. audiences. International cultural exchange uniquely supports a diversity of viewpoints and contributes to international peace and mutual understanding.

The application of the new travel ban to nonimmigrant artists will cost American artists that perform alongside international artists important employment opportunities, inflict economic harm on our nation's arts sector, and have a long-lasting effect on the ability of U.S. artists to tour, perform, and create art abroad.

Congress has repeatedly expressed bipartisan support for improving the U.S. artist visa process. The United States should be easing the visa burden for international artists. **As the Department of Homeland Security takes next steps in its review of national security measures, we urge policy leaders to retain access to artist visas and support opportunities for world-wide cultural exchange.**

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Association of Performing Arts
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Chorus America
Dance/USA
Folk Alliance International
Fractured Atlas
Future of Music Coalition
League of American Orchestras
Local Learning: The National Network for
Folk Arts in Education
National Alliance for Musical Theatre

National Association of Latino Arts and
Cultures
National Council for the Traditional Arts
Network of Ensemble Theaters
New Music USA
North American Performing Arts Managers
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OPERA America
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