

KEY ADVOCACY UPDATES

APRIL 2022

Find links to advocacy campaigns for these and other issues, and essential online resources, at: americanorchestras.org/learn/advocate

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY:

As Congress addresses ongoing COVID-19 relief and recovery needs, and considers substantial domestic federal investments, the League partners with the national arts and nonprofit sectors to seek support for orchestras, musicians, and the communities they serve.

We urge Congress to extend the duration of COVID-19 relief provisions; support full implementation of the Shuttered Venues Operators Grants program; enact enhanced charitable giving incentives and tax relief for performers; and, direct federal recovery and workforce policies to support the arts and nonprofit sectors.

- o League Resources: [COVID-19 Recovery Action Campaign](#), [League COVID-19 Federal Assistance Resources](#), [COVID Safety Protocols](#)

EDUCATION:

Orchestras work at the national, state, and local levels to build support for music education in schools. The League is a leader in national efforts to preserve arts education funding and to improve arts education through implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

We urge Congress to fully support the arts as it funds and guides the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act; fully fund the Arts Education programs in the FY23 Labor-HHS Education appropriations bills; require the U.S. Department of Education to comprehensively report the status of arts education in America's public schools.

- o League Resources: [Music Education Advocacy Tools](#), [ESSA Resource Center](#), [Supporting In-School Music Education](#)

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE:

The U.S. State Department encourages links among cultural organizations and communities around the world by providing grant opportunities for cultural exchange and promoting cultural diplomacy.

We urge Congress to support funding for the Cultural Programs Division of the State Department in the FY23 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

- o League Resource: [Updates on State Department Funding Opportunities](#)

NONPROFIT AND ARTIST TAX POLICIES:

Orchestras, in close partnership with the broader nonprofit community, seek to protect and improve incentives for charitable giving. The League also partners with the wider arts sector to see fair tax policies for artists.

We urge Congress and the White House to increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations to serve community by expanding charitable giving incentives for all taxpayers, including enacting a permanent universal charitable deduction and supporting the Legacy IRA Act. Congress can also support the creative sector by enacting the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, and by reinstating the performing artist deduction for unreimbursed business expenses.

- o League Resources: [Public Value Toolkit](#), [League Tax Policy Action Center](#)

VISA AND TAX POLICIES FOR FOREIGN GUEST ARTISTS:

The League is a global leader in helping artists - and the organizations that present them - navigate the U.S. visa process and tax requirements. Together with other national performing arts organizations, orchestras are working with the White House, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), State Department, Treasury, and Congress to urge ongoing policy improvements.

We urge USCIS to make visa processing more affordable and reliable; call on Congress to re-introduce the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision; request that the State Department improve the visa process at consulates worldwide; and, ask Treasury to improve withholding and tax identification procedures.

- League Resources: [Visa and Tax Assistance](#), [ArtistsfromAbroad.org](#), [Latest Updates on COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)

TRAVEL WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

Orchestras and individual musicians travel with instruments to bring live music to audiences in every corner of the globe.

We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Department of Agriculture to ensure the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species permit process for travel and trade with musical instruments is efficient and affordable. We urge the Department of Transportation and airlines to fully implement and enforce laws protecting musical instruments in-cabin and as cargo.

- League Resources: [Tips for Traveling by Air](#), [How to Navigate CITES Permit Requirements](#)

CREATIVE WORKFORCE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY:

Orchestras are part of a vibrant creative sector that supports a substantial workforce, and strengthens the economic health of communities nationwide. The League joins the wider arts sector, business community, civic leaders, and networks of individual artists seeking new and renewed support from agencies across the federal government.

We urge Congress to enact the Creative Economy Revitalization Act, CREATE Act, PLACE Act, WORK Now Act, and other federal proposals to strengthen the creative workforce.

- League Resources: [Arts Recovery Talking Points and Campaign](#), [Rebuilding America's Arts Infrastructure](#), [NEA and Bureau of Economic Analysis Data](#)

MUSIC LICENSING AND DISTRIBUTION:

Orchestras are a part of the music creation and distribution ecosystem, innovating to provide live arts experiences, online performances, and learning opportunities to their communities nationwide.

The League partners with orchestra stakeholders to speak up before the Administration and Congress in pursuit of a fair outcomes that will support the interests of orchestras, composers, and the audiences they serve.

- League Resource: [League August 9, 2019 Comments to Department of Justice, Bots Disruption Comments to U.S. Copyright Office by Orchestra Music Licensing Association](#)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS:

Through direct grants, support to state arts agencies, and national leadership initiatives, and dedicated COVID-19 relief, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is a critical source of federal support for orchestras nationwide. The NEA's FY21 Grants to Organizations included 103 grants to orchestras and communities they serve.

We urge Congress to increase NEA funding in FY23 to support the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America.

- League Resources: [Application Tips for Orchestras](#), [Compilation of NEA Grants to Orchestras](#), [COVID-19 Relief](#)