

# KEY ADVOCACY UPDATES

## JANUARY 2023

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

### 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.***

- o League Resources: [Visa and Tax Assistance](#), [ArtistsfromAbroad.org](#)

### COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY:

As federal COVID-19 relief continues to be administered and ongoing recovery requires federal leadership, 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 support the arts through any COVID-19 relief and disaster relief provisions; reinstate the 2021 Employee Retention Tax Credit; 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 equitable access to 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 FY24 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](#)

### 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 promote fair tax policies for artists.

***We urge Congress and the White House to increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations to serve community by restoring and expanding charitable giving incentives for all taxpayers, including a permanent universal charitable deduction. 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](#)

## 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 global parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to ensure that policies for travel and trade with musical instruments support both conservation efforts and international cultural activity. We urge the Department of Transportation and airlines to fully implement and enforce laws protecting musical instruments in-cabin and as cargo.*

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

## 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 FY24 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.*

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

## 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.*

- o 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.**

- o 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 FY22 Grants to Organizations included 101 grants to orchestras and communities they serve.

*We urge Congress to increase NEA funding in FY24 to support the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America.*

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