

KEY ADVOCACY UPDATES



League
of American
Orchestras

January 2025

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Nonprofit and Artist Tax Policies

Orchestras work in close partnership with the broader nonprofit and arts sectors to improve incentives for charitable giving and promote fair tax policies for artists.

Asks: Restore and expand charitable giving incentives for all taxpayers with a permanent universal charitable deduction for non-itemizers. Enact the Artist-Museum Partnership Act and reinstate the performing artist deduction. [Public Value Toolkit](#), [League Tax Policy Action Center](#)

Music Education

Orchestras partner with communities to support more music education in schools. The federal government can grow arts education funding and improve equitable access to arts education through implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Asks: Fully fund the Arts Education programs in the FY25 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. Co-sponsor the Arts Education for All Act. [Music Education Advocacy Tools](#), [Contact Congress Today](#)

Visas for Foreign Guest Artists and Cultural Exchange

The League is a global leader in helping the arts sector navigate the U.S. visa process and tax requirements for international artists. National performing arts organizations are urging U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), State Department, and Treasury, to improve the climate for international cultural activity.

Asks: Make USCIS and consular visa processing more affordable and reliable. Fully fund the State Department's cultural affairs programs. Improve withholding and tax identification procedures. [Visa and Tax Assistance](#), [ArtistsfromAbroad.org](#), [League Advocacy Influences Visa Fee Increases](#)

Travel with Musical Instruments

Orchestras and individual musicians travel with instruments to bring live music to audiences in every corner of the globe. Rules for travel should be common-sense and support mobility.

Asks: *Ensure that policies for travel and trade with musical instruments with rare materials support both conservation efforts and international cultural activity. Airlines must fully implement and enforce laws protecting musical instruments in-cabin and as cargo.* [Know Your Bow: Tips for Pernambuco Bow Owners](#), [How to Navigate CITES Permit Requirements](#), [Tips for Traveling by Air](#)

Ticketing Policies

Following years of policy action at the state level, the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Congress are turning attention to proposals that would set new national rules on ticket sale transparency and other policies for concert ticket sales on the both the primary and secondary markets.

Asks: *Enact the Fans First Act to prohibit predatory ticket sales practices and support access to performances and events.* [FTC Issues New Ticketing Rules](#), [League Ticketing Overview](#)

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.

Asks: *Advance policies that will support the interests of orchestras, composers, and the audiences they serve. Support the creative community in policies regarding artificial intelligence.* [Bots Disruption Comments to U.S. Copyright Office](#), [League Joins Human Artistry Campaign](#)

National Endowment for the Arts

Through direct grants, support to state arts agencies, and national leadership initiatives, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is a critical source of federal support for orchestras nationwide. The NEA's FY24 Grants to Organizations included 97 grants to orchestras and communities they serve.

Asks: *Increase FY25 funding to support the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America.* [NEA Grants to Orchestras and Application Tips](#), [League Testimony to U.S. Congress](#)

Additional Priority Key Issues:

[LGBTQIA+ creative expression and freedom](#), [Government-wide support for the arts](#), [Disaster relief & preparedness](#), [Creative workforce and the economy](#)

Find links to the League's e-campaigns and essential online resources at:
americanorchestras.org/learn/advocate