

KEY ADVOCACY UPDATES



League
of American
Orchestras

January 2026

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National Endowment for the Arts

Through direct grants, state arts agency support, research and national 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.

Ask: Support FY26 funding to fuel the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America. [NEA Grants to Orchestras](#), [Grant Process Overview](#), [Contact Congress Today](#)

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 and support the arts in the Well-Rounded education provisions of the U.S. Department of Education in the FY26 Labor-HHS Education appropriations. Comprehensively report the status of arts education in America's public schools. Co-sponsor the Arts Education for All Act. [Music Education Advocacy Tools](#)

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 Leads on Objections to Visa Fee Increase](#)

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

Alongside ongoing policy action at the state level, the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Congress are considering policies that would set new national rules on ticket sale transparency and potential fraud prevention measures for ticket sales on the both the primary and secondary markets.

Asks: *Enact meaningful policies to prohibit predatory ticket sales practices and support access to performances and events. [League Ticketing Policy Overview](#)*

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: *Support charitable giving incentives for all taxpayers by expanding the now-permanent charitable deduction for non-itemizers. Reinstate the performing artist deduction and enact incentives for gifts of art and archives. [Philanthropic Trends](#), [League Tax Policy Action Center](#)*

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](#)*

Additional Priority Key Issues:

[NEH and IMLS](#); [Executive Actions](#); [Creative Expression and Freedom](#); [Nonprofit Advocacy Capacity](#)

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