

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

We thank the Subcommittee for its steadfast bipartisan support of our federal cultural agencies. In that tradition, we respectfully request your support of at least \$213 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Interior Appropriations bill.

The arts are a powerful force in our communities. As the nation's largest single funder of the nonprofit arts sector, the NEA expands opportunities for Americans to engage with the arts in every state and congressional district, supporting an average of 2,300 projects annually. This grantmaking often targets rural and underserved areas that would not otherwise have robust access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts.

The widespread and multiplying effects of these NEA investments are remarkable. The NEA funds the arts in nearly 700 counties, in which the largest 1,000 foundations do not. The NEA provides a significant return on investment and generates funds that well exceed the required non-federal match of at least 1:1. Moreover, 40 percent of NEA's grant-making budget is re-granted through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations. Private support cannot substitute the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

The arts and cultural industries in our country contribute more than \$1.2 trillion to the U.S. economy. The nonprofit arts and culture sector alone generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity in 2022 with \$73.3 billion spent by arts and cultural organizations and an additional \$78.4 billion in event-related expenditures by audiences. This activity in the nonprofit arts and culture sector supported 5.4 million jobs, provided \$101 billion in personal income to residents, and generated \$29.1 billion in tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments. NEA supports the promotion of our nation's rich artistic heritage and will greatly contribute to the celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Beyond the economic value of the arts, they can also serve a transformational role in our communities. The arts help us to better understand different communities and cultures, which helps bring people together. The arts provide a way to help individuals cope, demonstrate another way to communicate, and have a powerful ability to enrich people, inspire creativity, and preserve cultures and traditions.

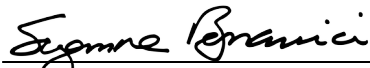
The NEA is at the forefront of the effort to build a national network of care for our injured service members, whether they are active duty or veterans, in medical treatment or transitioning back home to their bases and communities. **The Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network** focuses on support for service members and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions. This program includes 12 clinical sites across the country and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. It represents an important partnership between the NEA, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and state and local community arts organizations. The NEA is committed to advancing

research and building a national network of care in both clinical and community settings, benefiting our injured service members, veterans, and their families.

The arts also play a significant role in well-rounded educational opportunities for our nation's students. In recent years, there have been consequential declines in the teaching of arts. Providing opportunities for creative learning is critical for the well-rounded development of our youth, including their academic success, as supported by research that showed students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and graduation rates. The NEA's education programs have helped sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to close the education achievement gap and benefit children and adults in many critical ways throughout their lives.

We strongly urge you to support at least \$213 million for NEA in the Fiscal Year 2027 Interior Appropriations bill. This level of funding will expand the NEA's ability to provide all Americans with the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



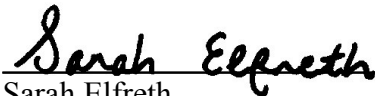
Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



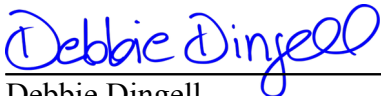
John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



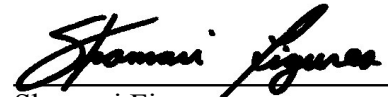
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



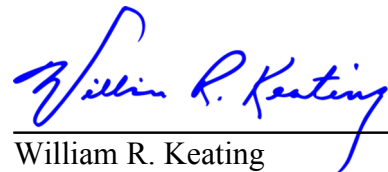
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



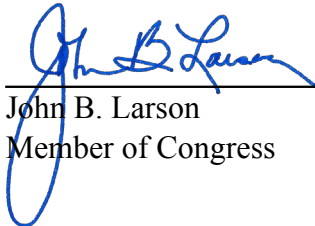
Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



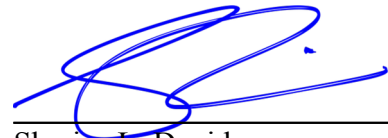
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



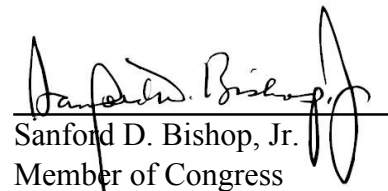
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress

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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress

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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



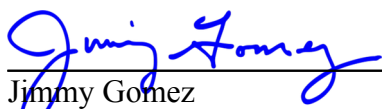
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



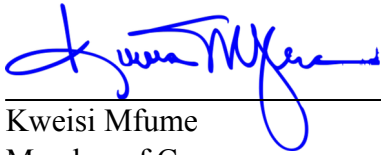
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



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Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress



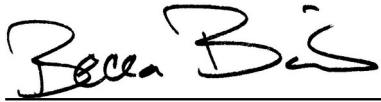
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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



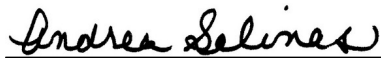
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



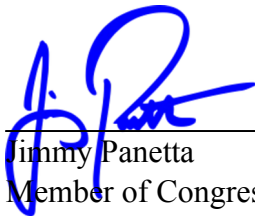
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



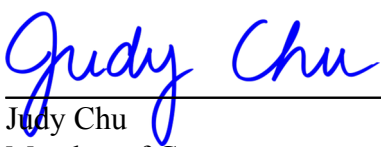
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



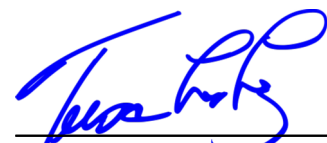
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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



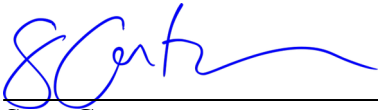
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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



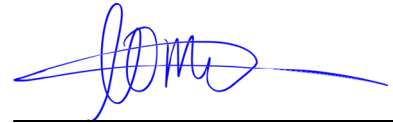
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Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



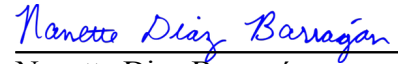
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



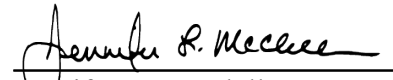
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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



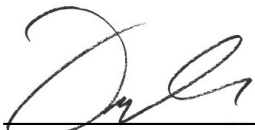
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



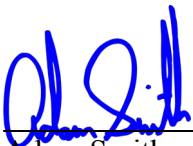
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



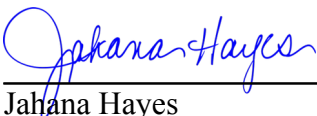
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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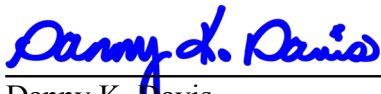
Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



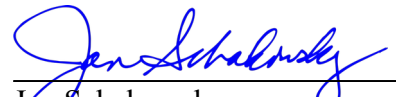
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress

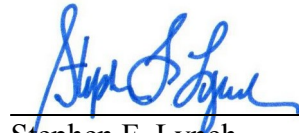


Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



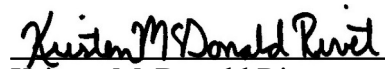
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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



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Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



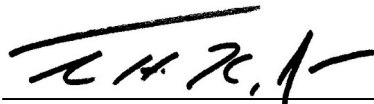
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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



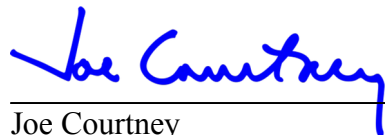
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



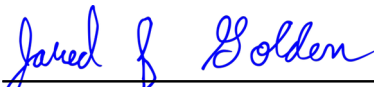
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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



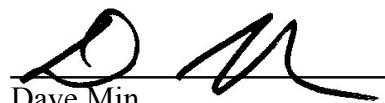
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



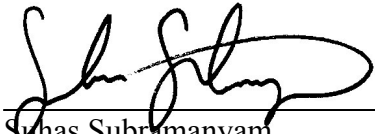
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

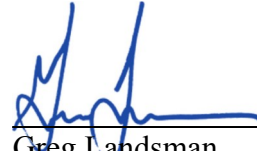


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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



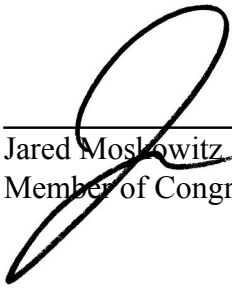
Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



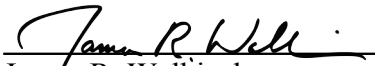
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



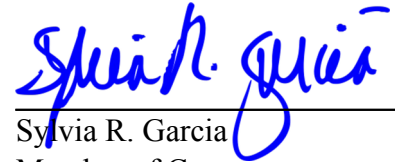
Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



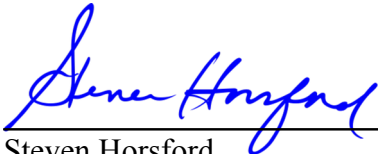
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



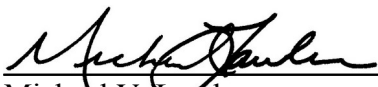
Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress