

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today in support of the critical work being done at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These federal agencies provide vital support and resources to endeavors in the arts and humanities across the country that serve as drivers of innovation and economic prosperity. We encourage you to support the Chairmen of these agencies, who demonstrate a continued commitment to supporting the arts and humanities.

Since its creation in 1965, the NEH has funded groundbreaking scholarly research, preserved essential cultural and educational resources, cataloged more than 63 million pages of our nation's historic newspapers, and helped millions of young people grapple with the lessons of history. Additionally, both the NEH and NEA offer healing programs for those who serve in our Armed Services and their families, as well as veterans reintegrating into civilian life.

Also established in 1965, the NEA supports art and education programs in every Congressional District in the United States. Access to the arts for all Americans is a core principle of the Endowment. The majority of NEA grants go to small and medium-sized organizations, and a significant percentage of grants fund programs in high-poverty communities. Furthermore, both agencies extend their influence through states' arts agencies and humanities councils, ensuring that programs reach even the smallest communities in remote rural areas.

Programs offered through the NEA and NEH not only help Americans express their values and forge connections between cultures, but they also serve as important economic drivers. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector is a \$704 billion industry, or 4.2 percent of the nation's GDP. The nonprofit arts industry alone produces \$135 billion in economic activity annually and generates \$22.3 billion in government revenue. The arts spur tourism, prepare our students for the innovative thinking required in the 21st century workplace, and employ more than 4 million people in the creative industries nationally.

While it is very rare for artists or institutions, like museums, to secure funding from just one source, it is the funding from these agencies that stimulate strong private investments. These agencies collaborate with private foundations across the country to bring artistic endeavors to life. In fact, each dollar awarded by the NEA leverages nine dollars from other sources.

The ideals of these agencies are enshrined in our Constitution as a fundamental tenet of American civil society. Article I, Section 8 explicitly empowers the United States Congress to

promote the "Progress of Science and useful Arts." The importance of federal support for these activities inherently aligns with the founding principles of this country.

Federal support for the arts and humanities is essential to our education system, economy, and who we are as a nation. We hope you will keep this in mind as you consider proposals that support these fundamental American institutions.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



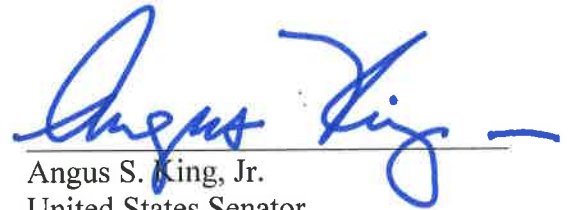
Tom Udall
United States Senator



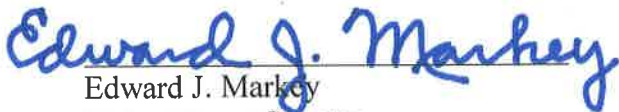
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



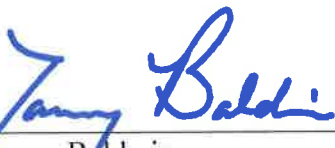
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



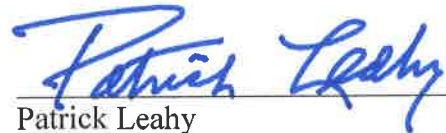
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



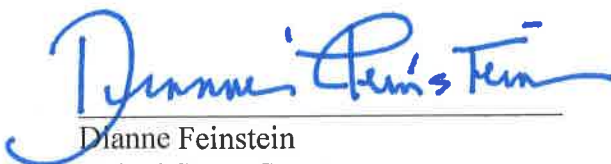
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



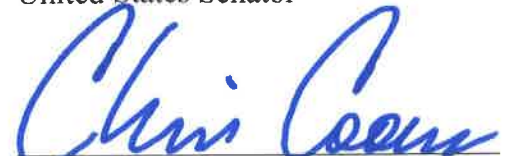
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator




Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator





Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Ben Cardin
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Mazie Hirono
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator


Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator