



Supporting & Promoting the Arts in the South

March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress,

WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH:

ALABAMA
STATE COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS

FLORIDA
DIVISION OF
THE ARTS

GEORGIA
COUNCIL FOR
THE ARTS

KENTUCKY
ARTS COUNCIL

LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF
THE ARTS

MISSISSIPPI ARTS
COMMISSION

NORTH
CAROLINA
ARTS COUNCIL

SOUTH
CAROLINA ARTS
COMMISSION

TENNESSEE ARTS
COMMISSION

The Southern Arts Federation is a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007. We are a nonprofit regional arts organization with the mission of supporting and promoting the arts regionally, nationally, and internationally. We work in partnership with the nine state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Together, we serve a very large and diverse population. Many of our programs and services that have significant impact in our region and elsewhere are dependent on the public funding made available through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

We feel strongly about the importance of the issues coming before this Congress. Specifically, we urge you to support the following:

The approval of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts at \$176 million, which is the level it reached at its height in 1992, and \$53 million for arts education.

Increased funding the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Department of Education for arts in education programs, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Department of State for international cultural exchange programs.

Tax legislation, specifically the *Artist Deduction bill*, allowing artists to claim a tax deduction for the fair market value of certain gifts of their own work to charity; and the permanent extension of the *IRA Rollover*, which allows people to make donations directly from and IRA account to a charity without first withdrawing funds as taxable income.

Reauthorization of a more arts-friendly *No Child Left Behind Act*.

We believe favorable consideration of all of these issues is vital to the future of all citizens, since the arts play such an important role in our society in improving understanding, enhancing education and building the social capital necessary to keep America strong.

Sincerely,

Gerri Combs
Executive Director

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