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March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the 400+ members of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD), I extend greetings and express this organization's pleasure in being a cosponsor of the Arts Advocacy Day 2009. ICFAD represents the leadership of the arts in higher education and, while international, is primarily an organization of United States institutions.

I write to emphasize the importance of the funding that is provided by the government for the arts and arts education in America. Many nations now look to America for leadership in the creative realm. Being able to show reasonable governmental support is crucial to maintaining this leadership position. As you know, the arts benefit every American, and thus we urge you to continue to fund quality arts experiences.

For our children, the arts provide powerful tools for development, enabling them to see themselves in a positive light and to know what it means to create, to lead, and to be part of a team. All schools should have the ability to offer a quality educational program that includes creation, performance, and understanding of the arts. Funding that you provide to the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the United States Department of Education has great impact in allowing schools to offer these important experiences to all.

We pledge to continue to develop the great wealth of talent available and to graduate the very finest artists and arts educators in the years ahead. We ask your help in continuing and improving the future of the country through support of the arts infrastructure – funding for the arts is critical to the ultimate good health of this nation!

Cordially,



Ron Jones
President