

# The MacDowell Colony

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March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

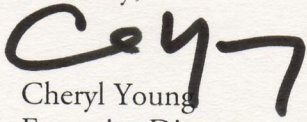
What better expresses a society's vitality than how it safeguards and inspires creative expression? The MacDowell Colony, the nation's first and leading artist residency program, is pleased to join 85 other national organizations as a co-sponsor of this year's Americans for the Arts' Arts Advocacy Day. Since 1907, MacDowell has awarded critical time and space to more than 6,000 artists, each day furthering our mission to enrich and enliven our common culture by cultivating the creative contributions of these individuals. MacDowell Fellows — including such luminaries as Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Thornton Wilder, Alice Walker, and Meredith Monk — have become pivotal figures, their creations among our national and international treasures. The MacDowell mission is one we are proud to carry forward today: helping talented individuals reach their full creative potential in order to contribute to our society.

We ask members of Congress to help ensure that the freedom to create remains an enduring national value and urge you to:

- 1. Increase vital funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities**, which serve to deepen and expand the reach and benefits of all the arts in our communities;
- 2. Provide much-needed stimulus support for the nation's creative workforce** during these turbulent economic times;
- 3. Support funding for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education.** These programs bolster artistic collaborations in schools, teacher professional development, and arts programs for at-risk youth;
- 4. Allow artists to claim a deduction for the full and fair value of certain donated works.**

With your help, our nation can remain a leader in the creative arena, stimulate recovery in the arts and private sector, and foster the innovations of the next generation that will sustain and push our civilization forward.

Sincerely,

  
Cheryl Young  
Executive Director