

March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:


NAMAC is a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009. As the national arts service organization for the media arts, including film, video, digital media and audio, our work strengthens independent media organizations as integral to their communities; facilitates the support of independent media creators from all cultural communities and regions; integrates media into all levels of education and advocates for media literacy as an educational goal; and encourages media-making that is rooted in communities, interconnected through technology, and global in reach. Our three hundred member organizations throughout the country reach millions of viewers and users annually.


To strengthen our national creative assets, we urge Congress to support the following:

- Increase funding for the nation's cultural agencies to ensure creative excellence throughout our nation: \$200 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, and \$200 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Reform administrative regulations at the Immigration and Naturalization Service to improve visa processing for the visa categories used by foreign guest artists and cultural organizations entering the U.S. for scheduled performances and exhibitions.
- Ensure broadband accessibility to all communities in America, including economically disenfranchised urban areas and all rural areas. Ensure net neutrality for the internet so that it remains an open, available, and equitable pipeline for current and future communication among all citizens
- Support NAMAC's call for a Digital Arts Service Corp that will integrate national service, public digital infrastructure construction, capacity building for nonprofits, and innovative uses of the technological arts in public and community-based organizations.

As media becomes more pervasive in our culture, it is imperative that we ensure the free flow of ideas and creative expression by providing support for media created in the public interest and outside of the commercial demands of the marketplace. It is there that we find true creative innovation and pluralism. We invite you to visit our website at www.namac.org and see what NAMAC member organizations serve your communities.

Sincerely,


Helen De Michiel
Co-Directors


Jack Walsh
Co-Directors