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“The arts embody the American spirit of self-definition.”

– President Barack Obama

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Dance Association (NDA), of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), is honored to act as a National Co-Sponsor and Legislative Committee Representative for Arts Advocacy Day 2009. Our membership of professionals and future professionals unites a strong and growing network of 23,000 educators, administrators, artists and researchers. NDA advocates the importance of dance education as an art and as a creative, healthy lifestyle —for all ages and abilities.

Arts = Jobs! And in this serious financial climate, we petition Congress to enact policy and funding initiatives that provide broader access to arts in our communities across this great nation:

- Support a funding level of \$36.5 million for the Arts in Education programs within the U.S. Department of Education that include: model arts/schools collaborations, teacher professional development and arts programs for at-risk youth
- Include Artists in Proposal for Unemployment & Healthcare Benefits for Part-Time Employees
- Boost Arts Projects in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Provide Economic Recovery Support to Federal Cultural Agencies
- Include Cultural Planning Through Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Increase Cultural Facilities Support in Rural Development Program (USDA)
- Link Transportation Enhancements (TE Program) With State Arts Agencies
- Create the Artist Corps
- Make Human Capital Investments in Arts Job Training
- Appoint a Senior-Level Administration Official with Arts Portfolio

Our arts organizations, as part of the business community, generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, proving to our constituencies that the arts are an economic driver for our districts and our nation. The National Dance Association thanks you for your support of arts programs — when our citizens have freedom to access the arts, we are assured economic and creative growth that benefits all.

Sincerely,

Colleen Dean

Colleen Hearn Dean, MA
NDA Administrator

May Yoneyama Gwin
Arts Advocacy Legislative Committee Representative