



*Improving Communities
One Theatre at a Time*

April 13, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is proud to continue its support as National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2010. AACT represents the interests of approximately 7,000 community theatres in the United States, organized in 10 Regions including one made up entirely of the US Military Overseas.

AACT is the resource for community theatre networking, resources and support for theatres that exist in areas ranging from villages to metropolitan areas.

The 7,000 theatres represent the efforts of more than 1.5 million volunteers creating over 46,000 productions per year to entertain an audience of 86 million people with a combined budget of nearly \$1 billion. As community theatres in America provide a multitude of education, participation and entertainment opportunities to the communities they serve, they also generate economic impact and jobs.

Those involved in community theatre are a diverse group politically, but all share a commitment to performance excellence. No cast and crew ever assembled with a call to do a show "almost as good as the last one."

In 2010, as our members struggle under the weight of economic challenges, we call upon Congress to subscribe to the same performance excellence commitment. Move swiftly, efficiently and responsibly to lift the economic burden in this country. Assure that the people who create, support, and enjoy community theatre have the resources to do so, whether those resources are jobs, affordable and effective health care, high-quality education, or financial safety.

AACT urges you to support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, improve the visa process for foreign guest artists, and make permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover provisions.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our country. Please let us know how we might be of help in the days and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Rod McCullough
President