

The MacDowell Colony

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April 13, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

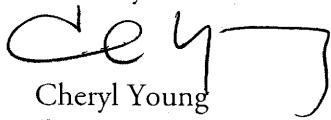
The arts have the power to revitalize the spirit and economic health of our nation. The MacDowell Colony, the nation's first and leading artist residency program, is pleased to join other national organizations as a cosponsor of this year's Americans for the Arts' Arts Advocacy Day. Since 1907, MacDowell has awarded critical time and space to more than 6,500 artists, each day furthering our mission to enrich and enliven our common culture by fostering the creative contributions of artists. MacDowell Fellows — including such notables as Aaron Copland, Alice Walker, Milton Avery, Meredith Monk, Willa Cather, and Wendy Wasserstein — 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 the Serve America Act (S. 277)**, that will strengthen national service in the arts and provide opportunities for nonprofit organizations to conduct community service programs;
4. **Cosponsor the market value deduction bills**, which would allow artists, writers, and composers to take a fair-market value deduction for contributions of their own works to arts organizations; and
5. **Ensure that national healthcare insurance reform proposals include artists and other creative occupations** currently excluded from employer-based insurance plans.

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

Sincerely,



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Executive Director

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