April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

Americans for the Arts represents a network of more than 220,000 organizational and individual members and stakeholders across the country. Together, all of us are dedicated to serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

As the host of the National Arts Action Summit, including National Arts Advocacy Week, Americans for the Arts is joined by other national arts, humanities, and civic organizations, representing thousands of cultural organizations in every state, city, and town to urge the 117th Congress to support legislation promoting the arts and the jobs they create and sustain in your district and state. Below are a few of our priority issues:

**Artists, Entrepreneurs, and Recovery of the Creative Economy:** We call on you to support legislation to invest in the country’s creative economy and promote economic inclusion; to recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community; improve and revitalize rural, remote, and underserved areas; and support the creative economy through federal programs and actions. These actions would strengthen the arts and cultural sector that the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis measures at 4.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or $878 billion annually—larger than the transportation, tourism, or agriculture sectors.

**Federal Funding for FY 2022:**
- We ask you to support a substantial funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
- We ask Congress to fully fund at $80 million the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- We ask you to support an appropriation of $40 million to fund the Assistance for Arts Education program of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement and fully fund the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Well-Rounded Education program (Title IV, Part A) and federal after-school program.

**Tax Policy:** We urge you to enact S. 618/H.R. 1704 to expand and extend the universal charitable deduction that encourages all taxpayers to give more during these challenging times and as the nation recovers and rebuilds. We also call on you to support tax legislation preserving various arts-related tax provisions such as allowing artists to take a fair-market value deduction for contributions of their own work to museum, libraries, and cultural institutions.

We thank you for supporting all the issues included in this Congressional Arts Handbook on behalf of the creative and historic work of America’s cultural organizations.

Sincerely,

Namé Rome
Vice President of Government Affairs

www.AmericansfortheArts.org
FOLLOW US @AMERICANS4ARTS
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

As a National Partner of the National Arts Action Digital Summit 2021, the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) is calling on Congress to increase current support and funding for federal agencies and programs that promote, sustain, and support the arts and the creative arts therapies in all areas of American life.

The mission of the AATA is to advocate for expansion of access to professional art therapists and advance art therapy as a regulated mental health profession, working in concert with our 38 state and regional chapters. Art therapy is a mental health profession that enriches the lives of individuals, families, and communities through active art-making, the creative process, and applied psychological theory within a psychotherapeutic relationship. It offers a means of communication for people who cannot find the words to express anxiety, pain, or emotions. Art therapists are clinicians, educators, and researchers with Masters-level degrees or higher, trained in art and psychotherapy.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, art therapists have been on the frontlines, both risking their safety in-person as essential workers and supporting Americans via teletherapy through loss, isolation, depression, and other challenges. Art therapists are keenly aware of the serious mental health needs of children and adolescents caused by the pandemic, the consequences of prolonged isolation of older adults, the added toll on LGBTQIA mental health, as well as persistent disparities in access to mental health services among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We thank Congress for passing the American Rescue Plan which provided critical support for the arts, mental health, and those who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Congress has long supported the arts and mental health, as well as the creative arts therapies, through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Older Americans Act, the recent passage of Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, and other federal programs. However, much more still needs to be done. To better respond to the mental health crisis that has accompanied the pandemic, the AATA urges Congress to strengthen our national arts and mental health infrastructure with the following actions:

- Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.

- Increase funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand the number of creative arts therapists employed in the VA providing clinical treatment in medical centers, community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and in virtual and telehealth services that reach a large number of rural and isolated veterans.

- Support anticipated recommendations from the National Defense Authorization Act report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the feasibility of expanding the creative arts therapies programs.

- Support research funding for creative arts therapies and arts in health programs within federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services.

- Support the Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy Workforce Act (PLACE Act), to direct the Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Small Business Administration to develop grant, education, and job training programs to assist individuals involved in projects that support a creative industry or occupation and to promote job growth, entrepreneurship, and economic inclusion in the creative arts workforce.

The AATA strongly believes that accessibility to, and active participation in, the arts and the creative arts therapies promotes physical and emotional well-being and enhanced quality of life for people of all ages. We join with our partners in Americans for the Arts in urging Congress to continue its vital support for the arts and the creative arts therapies.

Sincerely,

Margaret Carlock Russo, EdD, LCAT, ATR-BC, ATCS
President, American Art Therapy Association
Dear Member of Congress:

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is proud to continue its role as an advocate for the arts by being a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2021.

AACT represents the interests of 7,000 community theatres in the United States including U.S. Military theatres throughout the world. Music Theatre International’s (a provider of rights and materials for productions) Community Theatre customer base exceeds over 20,000 Community Theatres.

These theatres, in communities from major cities to rural villages, have a combined budget of approximately one billion dollars and engage more than 1.5 million volunteers, expressing their creativity through the art of theatre and engaging a combined audience of over 85 million theatre goers of all ages. Beyond the volunteers served, community theatre collectively is the largest employer of theatre professionals in our nation.

According to the Americans for the Arts, community theatre has contributed over three billion dollars to the economic impact of communities throughout our country.

More than just an economic engine, however, community theatres throughout the country, probably including your hometown, help stimulate the minds and creativity of all who participate. The impact on youth in building confidence and honing communications skills and problem-solving capabilities are well documented and can only be achieved by theatre and the arts.

AACT supports our member organizations by providing specific resources to assist in the management and execution of theatre with a constant goal of improving quality in all aspects of theatre. Through our workshops, national festivals, and interactive web site, we provide networking opportunities for both theatre professionals and avocational artists. AACT facilitates relationships for various services and discounts for our members only achievable through our collective efforts.

To continue the vital role the arts play in our country, AACT urges Congress to:

• Continue and increase the funding for the National Endowment for the Arts
• Support new and strengthen existing COVID recovery programs and initiatives that encourage individual and community financial support for the arts
• Look to develop new and innovative ways to further financially support the arts post-pandemic
• Improve the visa process for foreign guest artists visiting our nation

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our country and the arts. Please let us know how we might be of help in the future in achieving our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

Chris Serface
President
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) is proud to serve as a Partner of the National Arts Action Summit 2021. AMTA is committed to the mission of advancing public awareness of music therapy benefits and increasing access to quality music therapy services. With more than 70 years of clinical history in the United States, nationally board certified music therapists work across the lifespan, serving client groups in healthcare and education settings, using carefully structured and evidence-based interventions informed by the best available research in the published literature.

➢ Board certified music therapists have adapted service delivery and diversified treatment options to meet needs that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing both live and telehealth interventions to enhance physical, psychological, cognitive and social functioning.

➢ Music therapy programs serve America’s service members and their families on military installations, in military treatment facilities, in Veterans Administration healthcare facilities, and in communities.

➢ A recent report from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), “Arts Strategies for Addressing the Opioid Crisis: Examining the Evidence” found that incorporating music into treatments for opioid use disorder can contribute significant, positive effects for patients.

➢ Launched in 2021, the Sound Health Network is a partnership of the NEA with the University of California, San Francisco in collaboration with NIH, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Renée Fleming. It builds on the Sound Health Partnership, that brings together scientists, music therapists, artists, and the public to explore music’s impact on the brain, health, and wellness.

To improve access to cost-effective music therapy services, we urge your support of the following:

- Expand coverage of music therapy for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries
- Support Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Education funding for music therapy, including telehealth, designed to address mental health needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Support increased funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense for music therapy services, including telehealth, for veterans, active military, and their families

Thank you for your support of all Arts programs in America, especially those programs and services that improve healthcare quality and support communities respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Judy Simpson, MT-BC
Director of Government Relations

Adonia Calhoun Coates, CAE, CMP
Chief Executive Officer
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

We are pleased to submit this letter as a National Partner of Americans for the Arts National Arts Action Summit 2021. We write to you on behalf of more than 250 members of the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE). AAAE represents higher education arts administration training programs from all over the world, with 85% in the U.S. Our members and alumni have dedicated their professional lives to the arts - working in institutions such as theatres, museums, orchestra halls, and community arts centers. They are also at the forefront of arts and culture research, studying funding and operating models, diversity in the arts, and how the arts can transform and uplift communities. On behalf of our members, AAAE offers the following recommendations:

1. **Funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.** Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States. Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding.

2. **A Favorable Environment for Higher Education:** We urge Congress to strengthen access to and affordability of higher education in the arts through supporting legislation that achieves the following:

   a. Funds federal financial aid at a level to ensure access to and affordability of higher education in a way that encourages students to pursue disciplines where they have the most interest and talent. Current federal financial aid policies equally support all students regardless of what they study or where they choose to obtain a higher education. Degree completion, regardless of major, is the most important factor to future success.

   b. Supports a significant increase in funding for the Pell Grant to return its impact on low and moderate income students, in turn driving economic recovery.

   c. Supports the Federal government's efforts to address diversity, equity and inclusion within higher education. President Biden released an Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government in January 2021 that includes access to higher education as a critical role for the federal government in supporting racial equity.

   d. Ensures the Department of Education's role in properly implementing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF) as well as its oversight of for-profit higher education institutions. PSLF is a vital tool in allowing talented and highly trained employees from all socioeconomic backgrounds to work at organizations that make an impact in their communities.

   e. Supports meaningful debt forgiveness. Student loan debt is disproportionately held by students of color. Additionally, arts graduates have been overwhelmingly affected by the COVID-19 economic crisis. Meaningful debt forgiveness would both address previous inequities in support for federal financial aid and the particular economic stresses incurred recently by creative workers.

The arts are vital to our nation’s healing and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and arts graduates will drive this recovery. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts to you.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Adams
Executive Director, AAAE
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

The Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) is pleased to be a National Co-Sponsor of the 2021 National Arts Action Summit and Advocacy Day. AICAD is a non-profit consortium of the leading specialized arts and design schools in the US and Canada. AICAD’s mission is to help strengthen its member schools individually and collectively, and to inform the public about the value of studying arts and design in higher education.

On behalf of our member schools, AICAD highlight the following policy recommendations:

1. **Promote access to arts and design education at all levels for all students**, through ensuring Federal Financial Aid policy continues to forefront student choice in higher education, supporting the Biden Administration’s efforts to double the Pell Grant maximum, and ensuring that all Americans have access to high speed broadband regardless of income or location.

2. **Revitalize the federal government’s use of the arts, design and higher education in global relations and diplomacy efforts.** Both policymakers and diplomacy experts agree that the cultural exchange, including at the student level, enhances international understanding. We ask Congress to support efforts to return access to US higher education to all international students, regardless of country of origin, and also expand and publicly promote the use of the arts and design in diplomacy through the Cultural Programs Division.

3. **Recognize the value of and support the Creative Economy as a key component of the country’s overall economic health.** To do this effectively, the federal government must work with national field experts to update the NAICS code system to reflect 21st century industry classifications and fields of work and study, as well as expand funding opportunities for arts and design-based research that leads to new economic development opportunities through agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Department of Commerce, Health and Human Services and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency.

We strongly believe that the future success of the United States depends upon our ability to retain our place in the world as innovators and creators, now more than ever. The arts, and arts education, are a critical component to achieving this future. Thank you for your interest and thoughtful consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Deborah Obalil
President & Executive Director
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

CERF+ -- The Artists Safety Net is proud to be a National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2021. The lack of a safety net for professional artists when personal or natural disasters strike was the impetus in 1985 for a group of artists to create the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (DBA CERF+). From a modest, grassroots mutual aid organization, CERF+ has emerged as a leading voice for safeguarding artists’ livelihoods to ensure that they have the resources and protections they need to sustain their careers before, during, and after disasters.

Artists are not only vulnerable to disasters; they contribute significantly to recovery in their communities after disasters. With 36 years of service and more than 8,000 supporters across the country, CERF+ is dedicated to a future in which artists can thrive and contribute in their communities across the United States.

As a National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day, CERF+ is pleased to join with many national arts, humanities, and civic organizations in urging Congress to support legislation that promotes the arts and values artists’ contributions to our society. On behalf of our supporters and those we serve, we encourage you to strengthen federal support for the arts, especially in the following ways:

- Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States;
- Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding;
- Improve the support for creative workers after disasters by making permanent reforms enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic affecting self-employed workers, non-employer businesses, and low employer businesses;
- Build resilience in the “gig economy” by directing the Small Business Administration, the Department of Labor, FEMA, and other federal agencies to create resilience and disaster recovery programs responsive to the needs of creative workers and single-person (non-employer) businesses and businesses with under 20 employees;
- Take steps to enable FEMA to fully-integrate the arts and culture sector into disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts;
- Support the Artist-Museum Partnership Act (H.R. 1793 in the 116th Congress) to provide artists a fair market value tax deduction when they donate their artwork to museums.

We thank you for valuing the creative work of America’s artists and cultural organizations and the contributions they make to our lives. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Carey
Executive Director
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

The Educational Theatre Association is proud to be a national partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2021. Today we advocate for the arts and ask members of Congress to consider the value of arts education. EdTA, the professional organization for theatre education, works to ensure that every student has access to quality theatre arts experiences as part of their well-rounded education.

The Educational Theatre Association is an international association with more than 120,000 active members. EdTA’s mission is shaping lives through theatre education; honoring student achievement in theatre; supporting teachers by providing professional development, resources, and recognition; and influencing public opinion that theatre education is essential and builds life skills. EdTA is the home of the International Thespian Society, an honorary organization established at nearly 5,000 schools, that has inducted more than 2.4 million theatre students since its founding in 1929.

We ask you to support the following actions as described in the issue briefs included in this handbook:

- Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to:
  - broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts.
  - support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding.

- Appropriately $40 million for the Assistance for Arts Education programs authorized under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Strengthen equitable access to arts education through implementation of the following well-rounded provisions of ESSA:

- Co-sponsor the “Arts Education for All” bill written by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).
- Fully fund ($1.6 billion) the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A to support Well-Rounded Education.
- Make explicit the eligibility under current law for the arts to be supported through Title I funds and through professional development opportunities for arts educators under Title II.
- Fully fund ($1.1 billion) the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school program.
- Provide at least $4 million to the Institute of Education Sciences’ Fast Response Survey System for the administration of a survey on arts education.
- Include pre-K–12 arts education in the School and Staffing Survey, the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), and other data instruments, and restore and appropriately fund the arts in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including full and robust assessments in dance, theater, music, and visual arts.
- Urge the FCC to restore access to a reliable geo-location database and preserve non-profit performing arts, education, and media organization’s financial investment in technical equipment.

Thank you for supporting arts education and your thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

Julie Theobald
Executive Director

James Palmarini
Policy and Advocacy Advisor

Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), home of the International Thespian Society, is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is shaping lives through theatre education.
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

MacDowell is proud to stand with Americans for the Arts as a National Partner of the 2021 National Arts Action Summit. The mission of MacDowell is to nurture the arts by offering artists an inspiring environment in which they can produce enduring works of the imagination. The MacDowell residency experience has long been an incubator for new ideas, a haven for interdisciplinary exchange, and provided creative people the opportunity to be intensely productive while free from the worry and responsibilities that often accompany the insecurity of the artist's life.

In 1907, Marian MacDowell, our founder, included in MacDowell’s original mission the stipulation that, “no social distinctions should be allowed to determine the choice” of who is admitted to MacDowell. Marian would have been proud to learn that in 1997, MacDowell received the National Medal of Arts, for giving artists “the opportunity to work within a dynamic community of their peers, where creative excellence is the standard.” Any artist may apply for a MacDowell residency. Our admissions philosophy is that residencies are offered based on commitment to artistic practice that is demonstrated by work samples and the clarity of purpose expressed in the project description, rather than reputation or past achievements. Our ongoing outreach efforts seek to inform and encourage any artist to apply to MacDowell.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated America's arts industry: 63% of the nation's artists and creative industry workers are now unemployed; thousands of arts and arts-adjacent businesses doubt they will survive the pandemic. And yet artists continue to create. Each year MacDowell invests more than $4 million in artists because we believe in the power of art to connect us, to show us an alternate view of the world we live in, to challenge that world, and to change it.

In support of the Put Creative Workers To Work Proposal, MacDowell encourages decision makers at all levels of government to (1) provide relief funds to creative workers and organizations devastated by the pandemic and economic crisis, (2) invest in restart funds and hiring/retention incentives for businesses, creative nonprofits, and schools, (3) directly employ creative industry workers in the recovery through residencies and commissions, (4) improve existing local, state, and federal policies that treat creative industry workers inequitably, (5) improve conditions for independent workers of all types, including access to unemployment benefits and healthcare, and (6) install a senior advisor on arts, culture, and the creative economy in the Executive Office of the President.

With your help the arts sector can continue to inspire imagination, growth, humanity, and creativity across all of our nation’s communities.

Sincerely,

Philip Himberg
Executive Director

Philip Himberg
Executive Director
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

As a National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2021, Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) believes that the freedom of cultural and creative expression is fundamental to all Americans. The arts of all disciplines are essential to lifelong learning and creativity, and access to extraordinary cultural experiences must not be limited by geography, economics, race, identity, or other barriers.

M-AAA proudly serves millions of Americans in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, including many artists and cultural workers that have been deeply impacted by the pandemic. We know that the arts and artists can energize communities—both urban and rural—and citizens flourish as a result. Whether through our national touring exhibition programs, grants, or professional development for artists and arts organizations, M-AAA could not succeed in its work without the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among other federal initiatives.

We respectfully urge you to support the arts, particularly through the following:

Federal Cultural Agencies: Continue bipartisan support and increase funding to the National Endowment for the Arts at no less than $176 million and the National Endowment for the Humanities at $225 million in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and humanities. Funding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services is related and critical.

COVID-19 Recovery: With 5.1 million arts and culture workers and more than 675,000 small businesses generating $878 billion annually in every congressional district and local economy, America’s creative economy offers the best path to help revive the economy across our nation. The arts sector is also one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. We ask that you support the art sector’s recovery by allowing the National Endowment for the Arts to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding. Direct the Small Business Administration and other agencies to ensure that existing economic development programs and tools include the creative economy, supporting the range of business types in this industry.

Arts and the Military: Support funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense for creative and expressive arts therapies services and arts-based programming for veterans, active military, and their families through community and wellness programs. M-AAA is honored to be the cooperative partner for the NEA’s next iteration of Creative Forces to award grants to arts organizations across the country offering arts-based programs to military populations and their family members and caregivers.

On behalf of M-AAA and our partner states and organizations, I thank you for your dedicated work and hope you will join me in empowering communities through the arts throughout the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Stein
President and CEO
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), founded in 1876, is the professional organization for 19,000 independent and collegiate music teachers. Our members teach private music lessons to several hundred thousand children and adults all across the country. MTNA is a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2021, and I urge you to support increased appropriations for federal cultural agencies.

The accomplishments of our own and past civilizations are revealed to us through music and the arts--the most creative and enduring record of our history. Music and the arts have always been at the center of human endeavor and achievement, helping us understand our world and our place in it. As such, music and the arts are not luxuries to be enjoyed by a few. Instead they are necessities to be experienced by all.

In order to secure and advance our nation’s musical future, federal funding of the arts is vital. All Americans must have the opportunity to be enriched by the arts. And while private support is necessary and available, it is not sufficient. The benefits music and the arts bring to our citizens are too important to be left to the private sector alone. Our federal government must demonstrate its pride in our music and our arts through the act of supporting them financially. Otherwise we will miss out on the significant benefits to our culture and society, which only come through the achievement of our nation’s highest artistic ideals.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director & CEO
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

The National Art Education Association is pleased to be a National Partner of the National Arts Action Summit 2021. The National Art Education Association (NAEA) advances visual arts education to fulfill human potential and promote global understanding. Founded in 1947, The National Art Education Association is the leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts educators. Members include elementary, middle and high school visual arts educators, college and university professors, researchers and scholars, teaching artists, administrators and supervisors, art museum educators and university students preparing to be art educators.

NAEA promotes art education through professional development, service, advancement of research, knowledge, and leadership. In order to fulfill this mission, NAEA provides expertise, training, and resources that support professional growth and leadership, helping members affect the quality of student learning in their local schools, communities, and states. NAEA believes that all students deserve a comprehensive, balanced and sequential program of instruction in the visual arts, taught by teachers who are certified and qualified in the visual arts and designed to provide students with skills and knowledge in the arts in accordance with national, state and local standards. On behalf of the nation’s 90,000 professional visual arts educators, we offer these recommendations:

- Appropriate $40 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill and authorized under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- Fully implement the Well-Rounded Education provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by including the arts and strengthen equitable access to arts learning by:
  - Co-sponsor the “Arts Education for All” bill written by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).
  - Fully fund ($1.6 billion) the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A to support Well-Rounded Education.
  - Make explicit the eligibility under current law for the arts to be supported through Title I funds and through professional development opportunities for arts educators under Title II.
  - Fully fund ($1.1 billion) the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school program.
  - Provide at least $4 million to the Institute of Education Sciences’ Fast Response Survey System for the administration of a survey on arts education.
  - Include pre-K–12 arts education in the School and Staffing Survey, the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), and other data instruments, and restore and appropriately fund the arts in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including full and robust assessments in dance, theater, music, and visual arts.

- Strengthen access to and affordability of higher education in the arts through legislation that achieves the following:
  - Funds federal financial aid at a level to ensure access to and affordability of higher education in a way that encourages students to pursue disciplines where they have the most interest and talent;
  - Supports the Federal government’s efforts to address diversity, equity and inclusion within higher education;
  - Ensures the Department of Education’s role in properly implementing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program as well as its oversight of for-profit higher education institutions.

- Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States. Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding. The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts and supports educational programs for adults and partnerships between arts institutions and K-12 and college/university educators.

Thank you for your interest and thoughtful consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

James Haywood Rolling, Jr., NAEA President and Professor/Chair
Art Education, Syracuse University, New York

Mario R. Rossero
Executive Director

901 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
T: 703-860-8000 | F: 703-860-2960 | E: mrossero@arteducators.org | www.arteducators.org
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

The New England Foundation for the Arts is a proud National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2021. NEFA invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation, and serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England’s state arts agencies, and private foundations. NEFA represents a constituency of over 31,000 artists, creative businesses, and arts and cultural nonprofits, all of whom are represented on CreativeGround, NEFA’s online directory of cultural enterprises in New England.

We urge you to recognize and invest in the role of the creative sector in strengthening our country and fostering community vitality. Art, culture, and creativity are key to the recovery of our cities, suburbs, and rural areas, from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and are also a crucial vehicle for social justice and social change. To support employment, economic impact, and excellence in the creative sector, we ask that you:

1. Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.
2. Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding.
3. Support legislation to invest in the country’s creative economy and promote economic inclusion; to recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community; improve and revitalize rural, remote, and underserved areas; and support the creative economy through federal programs and actions.
4. Appropriate $115 million to the Office of Citizen Exchanges within the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the FY 2021 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.
5. Reintroduce and enact the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision, which will require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reduce the total processing time for petitions filed by, or on behalf of, arts-related organizations.

With support from the federal government, NEFA made grants of $1,278,307 reaching over 88,000 community members in FY20. This ensures that music, dance, theater, and public art animate the lives of all citizens, and foster the innovation and creative thinking that will help our communities prosper in the future, attract tourism, and retain young people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Edwards, Executive Director
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

The Recording Academy is proud to be a National Partner for the 2021 National Arts Action Summit. While the Recording Academy is best known for the GRAMMY Awards, it is also the only trade association that represents all music creators—songwriters, performers and studio professionals—on important policy matters, and works every day to promote music and the arts as an indispensable part of American culture. As you are determining policy, I invite you to use the Recording Academy, and our membership, as a resource that speaks for the individuals who create the music we all love and enjoy.

This Congress, the Recording Academy urges lawmakers to continue to work in bipartisan fashion to promote polices that better the future for American music makers, including:

- Continue to support the creative workforce, and small businesses, as they recover from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Co-sponsor the Help Independent Tracks Succeed (HITS) Act (H.R. 1945/S. 752) to ensure independent recording artists receive fair tax treatment, while incentivizing the production of new recordings.
- Support policies that enable all artists, songwriters, and creators to earn fair compensation for their work.
- Oppose the “Local Radio Freedom Act” which puts Congress on the record against intellectual property and the rights of creators.
- Incorporate strong copyright protections in bilateral and multilateral trade deals.
- Encourage cultural exchanges through improved visa processing for foreign artists.
- Support music and arts education in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Protect wireless microphone users from spectrum-related interference.

As you consider these and other issues, I hope you will always remember how American music makers, and other artists, helped to buoy our spirits, lift our hearts, and shine optimism amidst the death, despair, and isolation brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Art and artists are truly an indelible part of American culture and economy, and the industry deserves the full support of the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

Daryl P. Friedman
Chief Advocacy Officer
Recording Academy
April 5, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

Theatre Development Fund is a proud Supporter for Arts Advocacy Day 2021. TDF is dedicated to making the unique experience of live theatre and dance available to everyone. Since our founding in 1968, TDF has provided more than 90 million people with access to the performing arts, including students and people with disabilities.

On behalf of the audiences and artists that we serve, we urge you to preserve bi-partisan support for the National Endowment for the Arts. The mission of the NEA is to strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing everyone in America with diverse opportunities for arts participation. The NEA envisions a nation in which everyone benefits from arts engagement, and every community recognizes and celebrates its aspirations and achievements through the arts. TDF understands the importance of preserving access to the cultural, educational and economic benefits of the arts, and we hope that you will support this, too.

We thank you for your continued support of the arts and audiences in our communities. With your help, we can make the performing arts accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,

Victoria Bailey
Executive Director