*For Immediate Release*[CONTACT NAME]
[CONTACT PHONE NUMBER]

**Statement from [AGENCY NAME]
on the Proposed Elimination of the
National Endowment for the Arts in the Federal Budget**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has for half a century supported cultural organizations, artists and communities nationwide. Daily, it fulfills its mission to strengthen health, vibrancy, and equity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation and creative life.

The Trump Administration’s 2018 proposed federal budget seeks to eliminate all funds for the NEA, and seeks similar full defunding of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, and AmeriCorps. These actions, if adopted by Congress, will have profound economic and social implications in [SERVICE AREA] and throughout the nation.

**Federal funding for the arts ensures that the arts are accessible to all people.** In [SERVICE AREA], in 2015/2016, the National Endowment for the Arts invested [DOLLAR AMOUNT] in individual artists and organizations from [LOCAL EXAMPLE 1] to [LOCAL EXAMPLE 2]. The National Endowment for the Arts is profoundly populist. Each year, the NEA supports arts education and programs in every single Congressional District in the U.S. and its territories. In 2016, more than 20 million Americans connected to over 33,000 exhibits, concerts and events directly made possible by NEA support.

Here are a few examples of great work in [SERVICE REGION] made possible in part by the NEA:

* [EXAMPLE 1]. [BRIEF DESCRIPTION].
* [EXAMPLE 2]. [BRIEF DESCRIPTION].
* [EXAMPLE 3]. [BRIEF DESCRIPTION].

**Federal funding for the arts drives local innovation.** Mayors and city leaders compete constantly to attract and retain the best and brightest talent. Time after time, research bears out that the creative cities, those that invest in a wide variety of arts and culture offerings, also tend to attract and retain the critical technology, manufacturing and corporate innovators cities need to thrive. The NEA consistently awards funds in [SERVICE AREA] for new compositions, choreography, new arts exhibits and even cutting edge professional development. In 2016, alone, the NEA generated more than $500 million in local matching support for innovation in culture, design and art nationwide—a staggering 9-to-1 return on investment.

**Federal funding for the arts demonstrates value for artists and their ability to reflect our world.** Art is part of the human condition. In all civilizations humans are drawn to invent, experiment and express themselves in images, stories, words, dance, and craft. Americans, regardless of political affiliation, have historically deeply valued the creative spirit that is inherent in our culture. Public investment in the arts is a moral issue as well as an economic one. Federal funding through the NEA and other federal bodies says, “We, as a country, respect and honor the importance of a full, vibrant creative life for all, and the role that artists play in our communities.”

[AGENCY NAME] is deeply committed to equity, innovation and the role of artists in our community. We believe continued investment in federal arts funding reinforces what our creative workers do every day in our city. We will continue our work locally to drive these values and hope we can do so with the National Endowment for the Arts in years to come.

For information on the jobs, economic and social impacts of the arts generally, and the NEA specifically, please visit the **Americans for the Arts Mobilization Center** at <http://www.americansforthearts.org/news-room/arts-mobilization-center>.