July 29, 2020

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

As artists and creative economy leaders in America, we urge you to carefully consider the below policy asks as you develop the next COVID-19 relief legislation.

It is imperative that the arts and culture sector is supported in this new relief legislation. The latest data from Americans for the Arts reveals that there has been a $9.1 billion loss by nonprofit arts organizations, and artists and creative workers have projected a $50 billion loss in earnings for 2020. We are asking artists like you to sign on supporting:

- A second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which is currently set to expire on August 8;
- An extension of the duration of federal pandemic unemployment benefits which are set to expire on July 31;
- A boost to charitable giving by removing the $300 cap on above-the-line tax incentives for non-itemizers; and,
- Substantial emergency funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as they administer COVID-19 relief across the country.

We are in a historic and critical moment in our nation. **Whether or not artists, creative workers, and the sector at-large are included in the next round of COVID-19 relief could irrevocably alter the arts and the creative economy in America forever.**

We thank you for your leadership in crafting and passing the CARES Act. It was a critical first step. We hope that artists, arts organizations, and the creative economy sector can count on your continued leadership, and your insistence that these policy items are included in upcoming relief legislation.

Cc: Senate Cultural Caucus  
Congressional Arts Caucus