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July 7, 2020

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Earlier today, the U.S House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee strongly rejected President Trump's fourth consecutive annual budget request to eliminate both the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by instead appropriating **\$170 million** in funding for each for fiscal year FY 2021! This represents an **increase** for both agencies of \$7.75 million each over the current FY 2020 funding level of \$162.25 million and it is the same amount that we recommended to Congress.

Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund President and CEO **Robert Lynch** and ArtsVote 2020 Chair and Arts Action Fund Board Member **Ben Folds** testify before the U.S. House Interior Subcommittee on February 6, 2020.

As you will recall, Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund president and CEO Robert Lynch and our ArtsVote 2020 Chairman and musician Ben Folds testified in support of the \$170 million budget request on February 6, 2020. ([Watch Ben's testimony here.](#))

Additionally, we are very pleased to share that the House bill includes specific language requested by Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund to enable the NEA to **waive financial matching grant requirements** and to allow grantees to **use the federal funds for general operating support** as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These new funds would not limit eligibility to only recent NEA grantees and would apply to FY 2021 grants as well as any outstanding FY 2020 and 2019 grant funds.



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Stay tuned. This bill will proceed next to the full U.S. House Appropriations Committee, then the House floor before moving to the Senate chamber for consideration over the coming weeks and months.

Arts advocacy makes a difference. Thank you for everything **you** do to enrich people's lives through the arts. If possible, please also consider contributing to the Arts Action Fund.

Contribute NOW!

● \$10 ● \$25 ● \$50 ● \$100

Nina Ozlu Tunceli
Executive Director

