March 25, 2020

Dear Nina,

The United States Senate is set to vote on an unprecedented $2 trillion stimulus package tonight in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Once it passes the Senate, the House will need at least 24 hours to review the bill, but the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is indicating that she’s optimistic that the bill will pass in the House as well. This bill has a strong focus on workers, paid sick leave, and support for impacted industries, including the arts and humanities.

Thank you for responding to our Action Alerts over the last week and for sending thousands of messages to Congress with stories of how the arts have been impacted in your communities. Your voices were heard! Here are some top line items that will support the nonprofit arts and humanities industry that were included in the Senate Stimulus bill. Look for a more detailed legislative update from Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund jointly tomorrow.

- $75 million for the National Endowment for the Arts to quickly award "general operating grants with no match requirements" to nonprofit and governmental arts agencies across the country, with 40% going to state arts agencies for regranting in their states.
- $75 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (similar directives as NEA).
- $75 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
- $50 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- $25 million for the Kennedy Center, which President Trump did a good job of defending during his nightly press conference tonight.

Remember, nothing is final until the same version of the bill passes in both chambers and is signed into law by the President, which is likely to happen by the end of this week. There are many more grant and loan opportunities for nonprofits and individual artists in different parts of the bill such as the Small Business Administration, Community Development Block Grants, and the Economic Development Administration. More details to come soon.

Advocacy matters. Please consider a contribution to the Arts Action Fund.

Sincerely,

Nina Ozlu Tunceli
Executive Director