Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

We thank the Subcommittee for its steadfast bipartisan support of our federal cultural agencies. In that tradition, we respectfully request your support to match the Administration’s request of at least $211 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior Appropriations bill.

The arts are a powerful force in our communities. As the nation’s largest single funder of the nonprofit arts sector, the NEA expands opportunities for Americans to engage with the arts in every state and congressional district, supporting an average of 2,400 projects annually. This grantmaking often targets rural and underserved areas that would not otherwise have robust access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts.

Few other federal investments have such widespread and multiplying effects as those of the NEA. For every dollar spent on direct grants, nine dollars in private and other public funds are leveraged, generating more than $500 million in matching support. Moreover, 40 percent of NEA’s grant-making budget is re-granted through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations. Private support cannot substitute the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

Robust funding for the NEA is even more important as cultural organizations and their workers continue to recover from the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of the pandemic in 2020, more than 60 percent of creative professionals experienced unemployment. By one measure, 2.7 million arts workers lost their jobs and financial losses reached as high as $56 billion in goods and services from our creative industries. An increased federal investment in the arts is vital to restoring the sector and supporting its dedicated workforce. Beyond the economic value of the arts, they can also serve a transformational role in our communities. The arts help us to better understand different peoples and cultures, provide a
way to help people cope, demonstrate another way to communicate, and have a powerful ability to
enrich people, inspire creativity, and preserve cultures and traditions. The arts also play a
significant role in well-rounded educational opportunities for our nation’s students. In recent
years, there have been consequential declines in the teaching of arts. Loss of access to arts
education is a fundamental matter of equity, which is especially important to address considering
how creative learning bolsters academic success. Students with an education rich in the arts have
higher GPAs and graduation rates. The NEA’s education programs have helped sustain support
in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to close the education
achievement gap, and benefit children and adults in many critical ways throughout their lives.

The NEA is at the forefront of the effort to build a national network of care for our injured
service members, whether they are active duty or veterans, in medical treatment or transitioning
back home to their bases and communities. **The Creative Forces Military Healing Arts
Network** focuses support for service members and veterans who have been diagnosed with
traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions. This program includes 12
clinical sites across the country and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. It
represents an important partnership between the NEA, the Departments of Defense and Veterans
Affairs, and state and local community arts organizations. The NEA is committed to advancing
research and building a national network of care in both clinical and community settings
benefiting our injured service members, veterans, and their families.

We strongly urge you to support at least $211 million for NEA in the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior
Appropriations bill. By approving this level of funding, you will expand the NEA’s ability to
provide all Americans with the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention
to this request.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Alfred  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress
André Carson
André Carson
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Haley M. Stephens
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress  
, Committee on Ways and Means

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress
Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress

Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress
Tony Cárdenes  
Member of Congress

Becca Balint  
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress

Cori Bush  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Patrick K. Ryan  
Member of Congress

Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress