

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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.

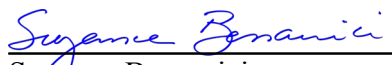
Robust funding for the NEA is even more important as cultural organizations and their workers continue to recover from the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of the pandemic in 2020, more than 60 percent of creative professionals experienced unemployment. By one measure, 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.

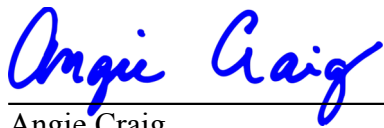
The NEA is at the forefront of the effort to build a national network of care for our injured service members, whether they are active duty or veterans, in medical treatment or transitioning back home to their bases and communities. **The Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network** focuses support 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


María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



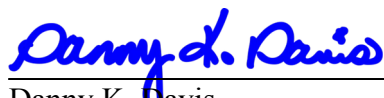
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



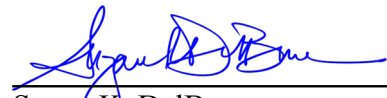
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



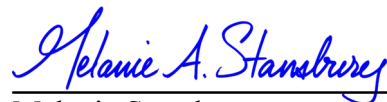
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



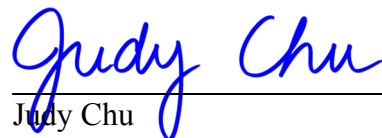
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



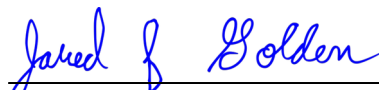
Andy Kim
Member of Congress



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. Allred
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

Kilili

Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Mary Sattler Peltola

Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



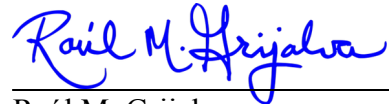
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



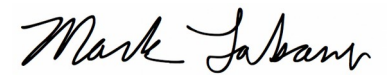
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



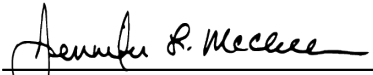
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



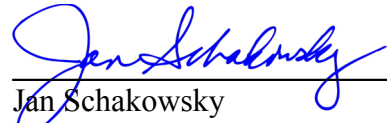
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



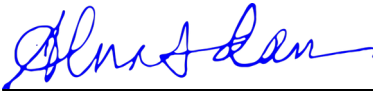
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



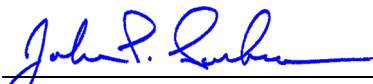
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress




John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



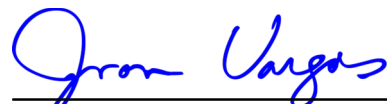
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



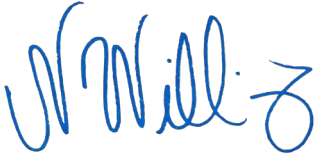
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



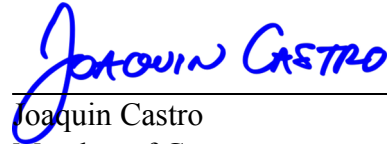
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



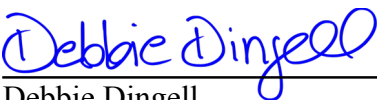
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



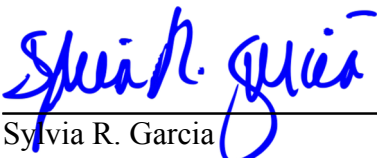
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



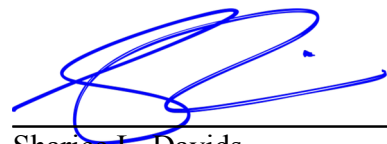
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



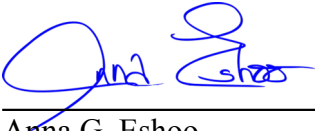
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



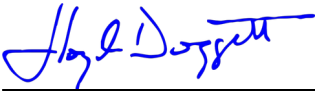
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



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



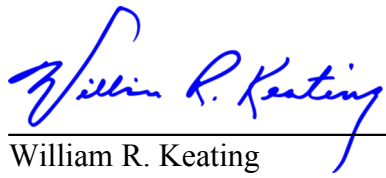
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



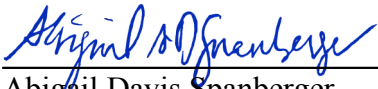
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



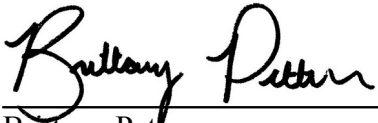
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



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



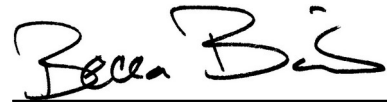
Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



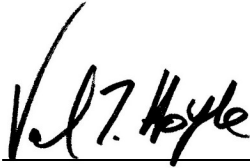
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



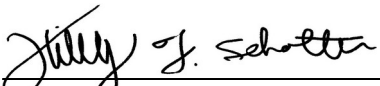
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



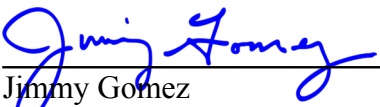
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



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



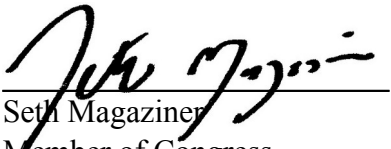
Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Magaziner", is written over a horizontal line.

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress