

## Support The National Endowment for the Arts in FY2023

Sending Office: Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
Sent By: Andrew.Dunn@mail.house.gov

### SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS IN FY2023

Please sign on via [Quill here](#)

**Deadline April 22nd, COB**

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Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in sending the below letter to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The letter requests at least \$204 million for the NEA in the FY23 Interior Appropriations bill to support the NEA's core mission to strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts engagement. Continuing to invest in our creative economy's recovery from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on cultural organizations and workers makes robust funding to support this mission even more important.

According to the NEA, for **every one dollar** we spend on federal arts initiatives, we see **nine non-federal dollars leveraged**, generating roughly **\$500 million in matching support**. An examination of NEA direct grants showed that the majority go to small and medium-sized organizations, which tend to support projects that benefit audiences who otherwise might not have access to arts programs.

In addition to grants made to every Congressional district, national research, and critical partnerships with the states, the NEA is at the forefront of the effort to build a national network of care for our injured service members. 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, expanded in 2017, now 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.

This vital funding will allow the NEA to continue bolstering our economy, serve our veterans, servicemembers and their families, as well as our schools and communities in every Congressional district. We urge you to join us in supporting at least \$204 million in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill. If you have questions regarding the letter please contact Andrew Dunn ([andrew.dunn@mail.house.gov](mailto:andrew.dunn@mail.house.gov)). Please [sign on via this form](#).

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bonamici

María Elvira Salazar

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

We thank the Subcommittee for its steadfast bipartisan support of our federal cultural agencies. In that tradition, we respectfully request at least \$204 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) 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 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 million arts workers lost their jobs and financial losses reached as high as \$150 billion in goods and services from our creative industries. Sustained 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 significant declines in the teaching of arts and humanities. An NEA study shows that since the 1980's, white students have experienced almost no decline in arts education, yet during the same period, Black and Latinx students saw sharp declines of 49 percent and 40 percent, respectively. 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 Grade Point Averages 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 important 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; and it 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 \$204 million for NEA in the Fiscal Year 2023 Interior Appropriations bill. By approving this level of funding, you will maintain the NEA's ability to make sure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request.