



National Arts Advocacy Zoom Week General Talking Points

- This week is National Arts Advocacy Zoom-In Week! This initiative gives arts advocates an equitable opportunity to engage with their members of Congress. We appreciate your participation by attending this meeting with us!
- Lead advocate introduces themselves and asks the rest of the advocates to drop their names in the chat box. Explain to them that you are participating in National Arts Advocacy Zoom Week to support arts communities in their state/district as well as across the country.
- Ask Congress to continue bipartisan support and robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the FY 2025 Interior Appropriations bill at no less than \$211 million to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.
- We encourage Congress to build a specific path to index funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at \$1 per capita. Each agency is currently funded at about 62 cents per capita. We also encourage continued parity between NEA and NEH funding.
- NEA annually recommends, on average, 2,300 grants across every Congressional District in the country. Most grants go to small- and medium-sized organizations (budgets less than \$2 million), and support projects that increase audience access to arts programming.
- Approximately 4,000 communities are served each year through NEA grants. Around 41 million Americans annually attend a live arts event supported by the NEA, including approximately 36,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and 6,000 exhibitions.
- Mention any NEA grants in your state or district or grants you know of that organizations or artists are applying for. If you don't know of any, talk about the needs of your nonprofit arts community and remind them of the 9:1 private-public investment.
- Express the importance of arts education for children in your community. Ask the Member/staff to co-sponsor the "Arts Education for All" bill introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), HR 5463. This includes measures to include the arts in state and local education plans, requiring state report cards to include information on arts courses, and expand arts education in the pre-k and juvenile justice systems. The bill also reinstates the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including full and robust assessments in dance, theater, media arts, music, and visual arts.
- Fund the U.S. Department of Education's Assistance for Arts Education program at \$40 million.
- Provide \$1.65 billion to support the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A of ESSA, to support Well-Rounded Education.
- Fund Title I-A at \$20.5 billion to help all children meet challenging academic standards within a well-rounded education, which includes arts education.
- Fund Title II-A at \$3 billion to support the professional development of all well-rounded educators, including arts educators.
- Talk about any arts education stories/data relevant to your community. Offer yourself as a resource to the office on arts-related issues.