



State Department Arts in Embassies Program

Congressional Action:

Urge the Senate to reverse House action and maintain the Department of State's Office of Art in Embassies (AIE) program.

Background:

The Department of State's Office of Art in Embassies (AIE) plays a leading role in America's cultural diplomacy by creating a vital cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding through the visual arts and dynamic artists exchange. They advance this cultural diplomacy through artist exchanges and the presentation of works by outstanding American and international artists to audiences around the world. With a team of only twenty, AIE curates temporary loaned exhibitions for Ambassadors' residences and permanent art collections for new U.S. embassies and consulates, and they foster dynamic artist exchanges worldwide.

AIE receives artworks from patriotic artists in all fifty states. They leverage relationships with over 10,000 museums, galleries, artists, and cultural institutions for loaned artworks of the highest quality. Strategically curated residence art exhibitions from generous artists and cultural institutions establish environments that accelerate mutual understanding around specific bilateral issues and goals. America has a potent cultural sector admired around the world which these exhibitions proudly promote, and they help to unite us with other nations. Celebrating 60 years, the program has made art an essential soft power tool advancing the mission of the Department of State. In 1953, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) initiated exhibitions of contemporary for the U.S. embassies residences in 1953. Ten years later, President John F. Kennedy established Arts in Embassies as an office within the U.S. Department of State.

House Action:

The House of Representatives passed its version of the FY'24 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that included a last-minute amendment by **Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN)** that would eliminate all funding for the State Department's highly effective diplomatic Art in Embassies program. Unfortunately, this amendment passed by an [unrecorded voice vote](#).

