

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SH-125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We write to express appreciation for your continued support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and to urge you to again support a \$155 million funding level for each of the endowments. Federal support for the arts and humanities is a vital economic, educational, and cultural priority that impacts communities large and small all across the United States, serving veterans, aiding businesses and redevelopment, enhancing student learning, and impacting our future. For almost 50 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has proudly expanded arts activity across the nation with the mission “to bring arts to every American.” Every dollar spent on federal arts initiatives leverages nine non-federal dollars enriching children and communities through access to the arts that they would otherwise not have.

Federal funding for the NEA acts as seed money that generates massive economic return. The non-profit arts industry generates over \$135 billion annually in economic activity and supports 4.13 million full-time jobs. Additionally, the federal government enjoys a direct return of \$9.59 billion in income taxes, as well as the indirect benefit of improved education, community development, and increased business activity across the country. Just last year, the American creative sector was also measured by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) through their "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" which calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) at 3.2 percent—or \$504 billion—of current-dollar GDP in 2011.

The requested funding for FY15 for the NEA will help the endowment maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Our Town*, *Challenge America*, *The Mayor's Institute on City Design*, *Blue Star Museums*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, and the *NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership*. In FY13, the NEA awarded over \$112 million in appropriated funds through just over 2,100 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the United States. It provides support for professional development to scholars, educators, curators, librarians, historians, filmmakers, and more. Through the endowment's efforts, our national heritage is preserved, civic institutions are strengthened, and Americans are better prepared to address the challenges in a constantly changing world. In addition to appropriated funding, the NEH is able to leverage

significant, non-federal contributions through competitive grant awards, with direct matching totaling more than \$2 billion over the last few decades.

Federal funding for the NEH includes support for state humanities councils that work in partnership with the endowment to reach millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, family literacy programs, and thousands of other efforts. With this extensive network of state humanities councils and general NEH programming, the endowment reaches every state and territory across the nation.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA and NEH continue to play a vital role in every state. We urge you to continue to support federal funding of the arts and humanities in FY15 with a \$155 million funding level for each of the endowments in the final appropriations legislation. We appreciate your attention to this vital funding, and look forward to working with you on this and the other important issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator

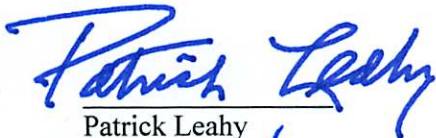


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Tim Johnson
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Bernard Sanders
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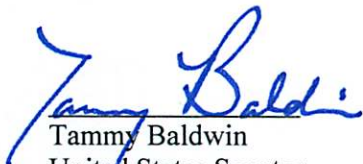
Sheldon Whitehouse
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Carl Levin
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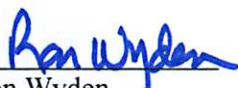
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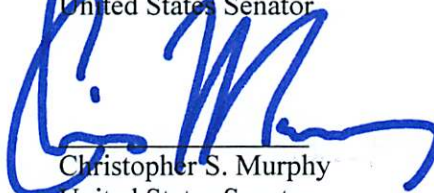
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Benjamin L. Cardin
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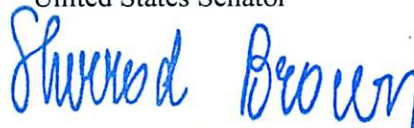
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



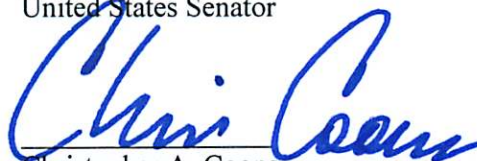
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



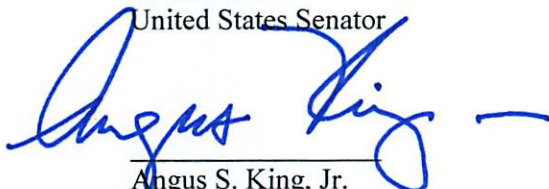
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Christopher A. Coons
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Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



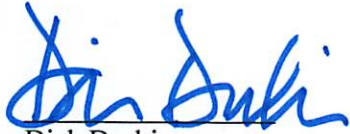
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