

November 7, 2013

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We are writing to thank you for supporting funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the draft FY14 Senate Interior Appropriations bill, each at a level of \$154.5 million. As you know, the arts and humanities are critical to our nation's well-being and economic vitality.

For close to 50 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts through core grant programs that support the full range of arts and cultural activity. In a striking example of federal/state partnership, the NEA distributes 40 percent of its program dollars to state arts agencies, with each state devoting its own appropriated funds to support arts programs throughout the state. As one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, the NEH provides critical support for research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities through grants to a wide range of educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and individual scholars nationwide.

The funding level recommended in the draft FY14 Interior Appropriations bill would allow both agencies to better address extensive unmet demand for support, which routinely outstrips available funds. Federal support will also leverage the additional resources from government, business, foundation, and individual donors that form the essential structure of support for the arts and humanities. While continuing to recover from disproportionate cuts in the mid-90s that eroded resources for competitive grant programs, both the NEA and NEH have provided remarkable national leadership, state partnership, and local support that expands participation in the arts and humanities in communities nationwide.

Thank you for your continued leadership in support of the artistic and cultural vitality of the United States as the Congress continues to act on FY14 funding.

Alternate ROOTS
American Alliance of Museums
American Composers Forum
American Federation of Musicians
American Institute for Conservation of Historic &
Artistic Works
Americans for the Arts
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Performing Arts Presenters
Chamber Music America
Chorus America
Dance/USA
Fractured Atlas
Future of Music Coalition

League of American Orchestras
Literary Network
Local Learning
National Alliance for Musical Theatre
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
National Association for Latino Arts and Culture
National Council for the Traditional Arts
National Humanities Alliance
Network of Ensemble Theaters
OPERA America
Performing Arts Alliance
The Recording Academy
Theatre Communications Group