

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2307

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DEADLINE: September 22, 2006

## SUPPORT FUNDING FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to ask you to join me in sending the attached letter to Chairman Conrad Burns and Ranking Member Byron Dorgan of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to request increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The proposed increase of just \$5 to \$10 million for each agency will help them to conserve and nurture America's heritage, bring the arts and humanities to local communities, and educate the next generation of Americans.

Without such funding commitments, the NEA and NEH will be unable to expand programs without diminishing existing programs of proven effectiveness. By contrast, these modest increases would allow the two agencies to maintain current levels of service rather than lose ground to inflation and increased administrative costs. It will also allow them to continue leveraging private support through matching grants.

Please contact Rachel Gustafson on my staff at 4-5641 by September 22 if you would like to sign the attached letter.

Sincerely,



NORM COLEMAN  
United States Senator

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 13, 2006

Dear Chairman Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan,

Even in times of great difficulty, the arts and humanities have the ability to inspire us, to connect us and to engage us. With this in mind, we respectfully urge you to support increases in the range of \$5 to \$10 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for FY 2007. Without such funding commitments, the NEA and NEH will be unable to expand programs without diminishing existing programs of proven effectiveness. By contrast, modest increases would allow the two agencies to maintain current levels of service rather than lose ground to inflation and increased administrative costs.

With more funding, the NEA will continue serving the American people through innovative initiatives and the core funding programs that have worked effectively for forty years. The core programs help bring the best of the Nation's arts to wider audiences (Access to Excellence); support programs in under-served areas (Challenge America); and foster innovative standards-based curricula (Learning Through the Arts for Children and Youth). Periodic initiatives such as American Masterpieces and Jazz Masters rebuild enthusiasm for a national effort to support the arts through the NEA. Most important, federal funding continues to leverage private funding, as it has done throughout the NEA's history, and a vigorous arts sector will keep providing economic growth, jobs, and exports, as well as enhancing our Nation's cultural life.

Additional funding will strengthen NEH's ability to support high-quality humanities projects throughout the agency's core programs, including Research, Education, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Challenge Grants and the Federal/State Partnership -- as well as the agency's We the People initiative. NEH grants help maintain a strong system of academic research, education and public programs in the humanities. As the single most important source of support for the humanities in the United States, NEH greatly enriches American intellectual and cultural life. Over the last four decades, NEH has promoted wisdom and vision by advancing the study and understanding of history, literature, art, language, archaeology, philosophy and other humanities subjects throughout the United States. We the People has, for the past three years, encouraged and enhanced the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. Through wide-reaching public programs and the work of the 56 state

humanities councils, NEH makes the best of the humanities available to people throughout the country.

Through these modest funding increases, we can strengthen the ability of the NEA and NEH to play their part for all Americans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Norm Coleman