

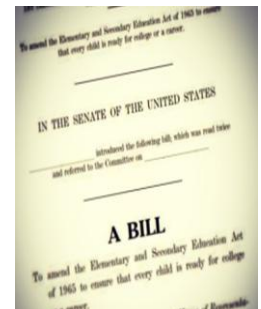
SUMMARY OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Cultural Agencies and Key Arts Programs / Supporting Federal Funding

- ✓ Sign FY 2016 appropriations programmatic letters:
 - **National Endowment for the Arts** (House: Reps. Slaughter, D-NY and Lance, R-NJ. Senate: Sen. Udall, D-NM) and support a funding level of \$155 million for the NEA.
 - **Office of Museum Services** (House: Reps. Tonko, D-NY, Lance, R-NJ, Slaughter, D-NY, and McKinley, R-WV. Senate: Sen. Gillibrand, D-NY) and support full funding of OMS at \$38.6 million.
- ✓ Support continued appropriations for:
 - **Arts in Education** program at U.S. Dept. of Education at \$30 million.
 - **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** at current funding levels.
 - **Office of Citizen Exchanges** within the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at \$110 million—and direct the State Department to dedicate increased resources to the Cultural Programs Division's arts diplomacy programs.

Arts Education / Strengthening Arts Education in the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

- ✓ Retain the definition of **core academic subjects including the arts and strengthen equitable access to arts learning.**
- ✓ **Require states to report annually on student access to, and participation in, all core academic subjects.**
- ✓ Retain the **21st Century Community Learning Centers** program, which supports afterschool, out-of-school programs and expanded learning time in schools (S. 308, After School for America's Children Act)
- ✓ Improve the U.S. Department of Education's **data collection** regarding what students know and are able to do in the arts and the conditions for teaching and learning in arts education.
- ✓ Maintain **Arts in Education** grant support at the U.S. Department of Education.



Tax Reform / Encouraging Charitable Gifts

- ✓ Preserve incentives for charitable giving by **protecting the full scope and value of the charitable tax deduction** for all forms of charitable gifts, including opposing caps (28%) and floors (2%).
- ✓ Reinstate and make permanent the **IRA Charitable Rollover** (H.R.637, Permanent IRA Charitable Contribution Act of 2015).
- ✓ Reject any attempts to divide the charitable sector by favoring certain types of charities over others.
- ✓ Enact the **Artist-Museum Partnership Act** (H.R. 2482 in the 113th Congress) which would allow artists to take an income tax deduction for the fair market value of their work when they donate them to charitable collecting institutions.



Community Media / Keeping Arts & Cultural Programming on Local TV

- ✓ Co-sponsor the **Community Access Preservation Act** (the CAP Act, S.1789 in the 113th Congress) or other legislation that would accomplish similar goals to preserve public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access television channels for local communities.



Foreign Guest Artist Visas / Improving the Visa Process at USCIS

- ✓ Enact the **Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision**, which will require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reduce the total processing time for petitions filed by, or on behalf of, nonprofit arts-related organizations.

Health / Improving our Nation's Health through the Arts

- ✓ Support **H.R. 271, the COVER Act**, sponsored by Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), to improve access to evidence-based complementary and alternative treatments for veterans, including creative arts therapies.
- ✓ Support **S. 192, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015**, sponsored by Sen. Alexander (R-TN), which reauthorizes funding for support services, including creative arts therapies; directs funding for behavioral health programs; and requires the Administration on Aging to focus on health and welfare needs of older individuals, which could increase access to creative arts therapies and artist-directed health promotion programs.



Wireless Microphones / Protecting Wireless Technology for the Arts & Media

- ✓ **Sign letter** (House: Reps. Lance, R-NJ and Slaughter, D-NY) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding protecting wireless microphones used in the performing arts.
- ✓ Urge the FCC to preserve access to a reliable **geo-location database for professional performing arts and educational entities**.
- ✓ Urge the FCC to help **defray the costs of purchasing new equipment**, if its actions require movement in the broadcast spectrum.

Net Neutrality / Preserving an Open Internet

- ✓ **Support net neutrality**, which preserves an open Internet where artists and creative entrepreneurs can reach potential audiences, build businesses, and contribute to culture.
- ✓ Following February 26, 2015's FCC rule, Congress should work to ensure that content creators and everyday users can continue to benefit from the open Internet and the innovations it inspires.

Statements of Concern

- Artists, Entrepreneurs, & Small Business – to invest in the country's workforce and **creative economy**.
- **National Service** and the Arts – to strengthen the arts at the Corporation for National & Community Service.

For the complete Legislative Issue Briefs and Statements, please visit:
www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook