

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

Thank you for your support of our federal cultural agencies. In the coming year, we urge you to continue bipartisan support with a funding level of at least \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Interior Appropriations bill.

**Federal investment in the arts provides all Americans with expanded opportunities to engage with the arts in each state and district**, and helps preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts. The NEA is the largest annual funder of the arts and provides funding to often-overlooked cultural organizations outside major cities.

In addition to grants made to every Congressional district, national research, and critical partnerships with the states, the NEA is **at the forefront of the effort to build a national network of care for our injured service members, whether they are active duty or veterans, in medical treatment or transitioning back home to their bases and communities**. The Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network focuses support for service members and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions. This program, expanded in 2017, now includes 11 clinical sites across the country and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. It represents an important partnership between the NEA, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and state local community arts organizations, and is committed to advancing research and **building a national network of care in both clinical and community settings** benefiting our injured service members, veterans, and their families.

With an overall budget increase of \$1.9 million to NEA's funding, as approved by Congress for FY17, the Creative Forces program has successfully expanded to additional clinical sites. **Growing and unmet demand among military treatment facilities for creative art therapy programs continues**. Economic analyses, cost studies, and clinical research show a positive trend in the use of creative arts therapies and their impact on containing healthcare costs and facilitating functional outcomes achievement. With the \$1.9 million increase in funding for FY17, which was also recommended and supported by the Committee, the NEA is building national network of care for our injured service members.

In addition to supporting our military service members, the NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of our communities. Arts and culture-related industries create jobs, attract investments,

generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. These arts businesses represent 4 percent of all U.S. businesses and 2 percent of all employees, respectively. **America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with \$63.6 billion annually in overseas sales, creating a \$20 billion arts trade surplus.**

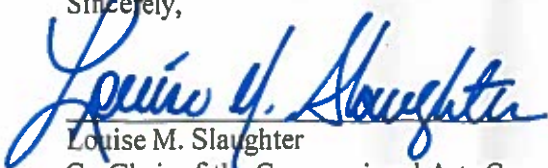
According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA (as reported in the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account) **the arts and culture sector contributes \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy, or 4.2 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.** This represents more than construction (3.9%) or transportation and warehousing (2.9%). From the work of nonprofit arts organizations to the impact of cultural tourism, **the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.** Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and multiplying effect across the nation as does the NEA, nor such a significant return on investment. Every \$1 spent on direct grants leverages up to \$9 in private and other public funds, generating more than \$500 million in matching support while at the same time enriching our children and communities with access to the arts they might not otherwise have. **Moreover, forty percent of NEA's grant-making budget is re-granted through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.** Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

The requested funding for FY19 will help the NEA maintain its enormously successful programs, including *The Big Read, Our Town, Challenge America, The Mayors' Institute on City Design, The Citizens Institute on Rural Design, Blue Star Museums, Shakespeare in American Communities, Art Works, and Poetry Out Loud*, which help the NEA reach every congressional district in the country, serving rural and urban communities; impacting veterans, businesses, and schools. **In FY17, the NEA granted \$127 million in appropriated funds through over 2,500 grants in every Congressional district in the country.**

The arts also play a significant role in equalizing educational opportunities. **Students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores and lower drop-out rates.** The NEA's education programs have helped to sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to help close the education achievement gap and also benefit children and adults in many important ways throughout their lives.

**We strongly urge you to support NEA funding at least \$155 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill.** By approving this level of funding, you will maintain the NEA's ability to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request, and hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus  
Member of Congress

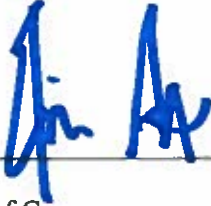
  
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress  
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

*David B. McKinley*

David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress

*David N. Cicilline*

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

*Gwen Moore*

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

*Keith Ellison*

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

*Adam Smith*

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Lee*

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

*Stephen F. Lynch*

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

*Nydia M. Velázquez*

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

*Peter Welch*

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

*Patrick Meehan*

Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress

*Carolyn B. Maloney*

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

*Doris Matsui*

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

*Timothy J. Walz*

Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress

*Don Young*

Don Young  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

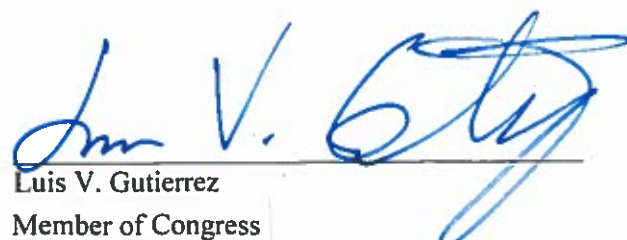
  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Turner  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



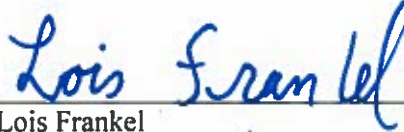
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



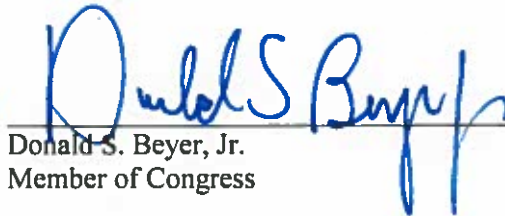
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



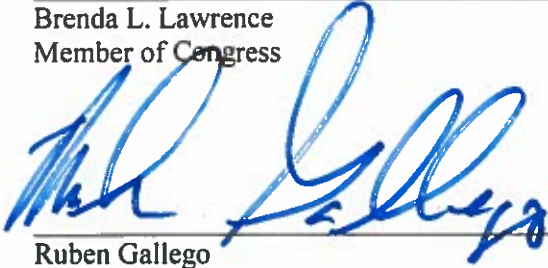
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



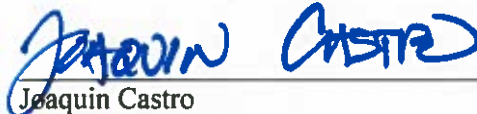
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress






---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



---

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress




---

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



---

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



---

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



---

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress




---

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



---

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



---

John E. Larson  
Member of Congress



---

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



---

Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



---

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



---

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



---

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



---

Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



---

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



---

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



---

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



---

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



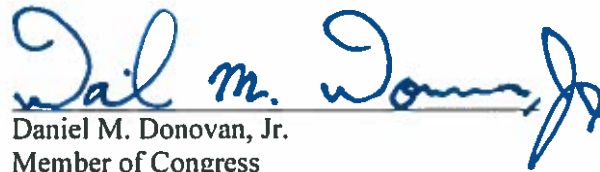
---

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



---

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



---

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



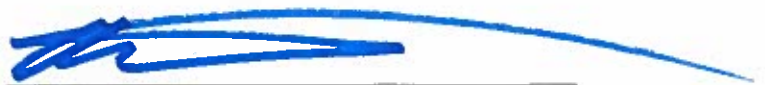
---

John Faso  
Member of Congress



---

John Katko  
Member of Congress



---

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



---

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

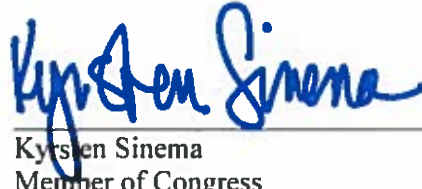


---

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Norma D. Torres  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



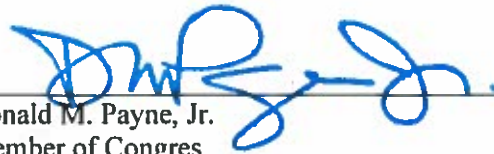
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



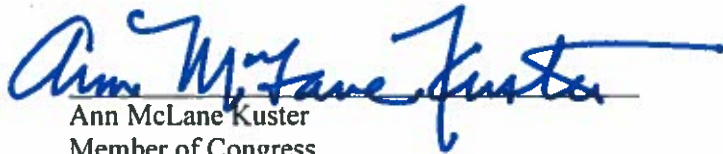
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



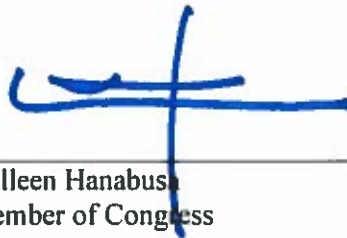
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



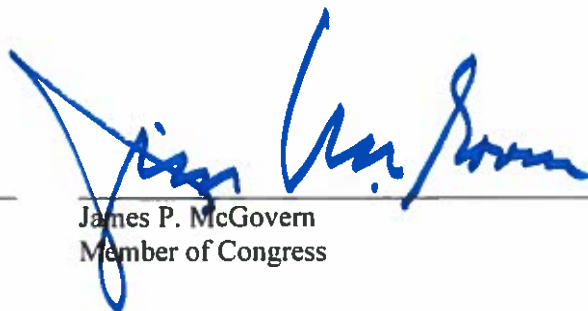
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



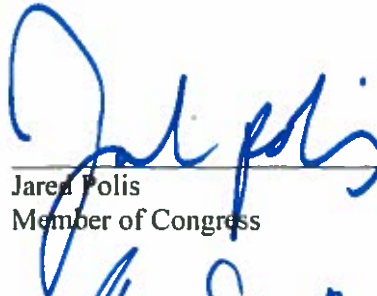
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress