

NATIONAL ARTS ACTION SUMMIT

Summary of 2021 Congressional Asks

This summary reflects just a few legislative priorities for each policy area. Full Issue Briefs can be found at: AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook.

National Endowment for the Arts

Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.

Arts Education

Co-sponsor the “Arts Education for All” bill written by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).

Make explicit the eligibility under current law for the arts to be supported through Title I funds and through professional development opportunities for arts educators under Title II.

Tax Policy & Charitable Giving

Enact S. 618/H.R. 1704 to expand and extend the universal charitable deduction that encourages all taxpayers to give more.

Support further policies that will strengthen the nonprofit arts community by passing the Legacy IRA Act (S. 243).

Enact the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, which would allow artists to deduct the fair market value of their work when they donate it to charitable collecting institutions.

Arts & Recovery

Incentivize Businesses and State/Local Governments to Put Creative Workers to Work.

Fund Creative Jobs, Fellowships, Residencies, and Commissions in Federal Departments.

Pass the WORK Now Act (S.740), which includes arts and culture organizations as eligible entities, alongside the broader nonprofit sector.

Creative Economy

Support legislation to invest in the country’s creative economy and promote economic inclusion; to recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community; and, improve and revitalize rural, remote, and underserved areas.

Improve the support for creative workers after disasters by making permanent reforms enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic affecting self-employed workers, nonemployer businesses, and low employer businesses.

Arts & Health

Expand coverage of creative arts therapies for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Support National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding related to telehealth access and outcomes of creative and expressive arts therapies and arts-based programming provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arts & the Military

Support anticipated recommendations from the NDAA report to the Armed Services Committees that increase use of creative arts therapies.

Support continued funding to the NEA for the Creative Forces National Grant Program, which will provide resources to nonprofit arts organizations across the country providing programs and services for military-connected populations through the arts.

Arts & Juvenile Justice

Appropriate \$96 million for Title V Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Include report language directing OJJDP to incorporate the arts in its prevention, diversion, reentry, and residential juvenile justice grant programs.

Arts & Higher Education

Fund federal financial aid at a level to ensure access to and affordability of higher education in a way that encourages students to pursue disciplines where they have the most interest and talent.

Ensure the Department of Education's role in properly implementing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program as well as its oversight of for-profit higher education institutions.

Cultural Exchange & Visa Processing

Appropriate \$115 million to the Office of Citizen Exchanges within the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Reintroduce and 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.

Arts & Transit

Support the Saving Transit Art Resources (STAR) Act to restore local control to transit authorities regarding the integration of art and non-functional landscaping into federally-funded transit projects and facilities.

OMS

Provide \$80 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022 for the IMLS Office of Museum Services (IMLS), an increase of nearly \$40 million.

Music Licensing

Support the establishment of a performance right for sound recordings broadcast by terrestrial (AM/FM) radio.

Give music makers control of their own work and empower artists to seek fair compensation for their music.

OPPOSE the misleading, anti-artist "Local Radio Freedom Act" (LRFA).