

February 10, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
235 Cannon  
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

We are writing to urge you to continue support for arts and culture by supporting \$200 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts in FY11.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. According to Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion annually in economic activity, supports 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs and returns \$12.6 billion to the federal government in income taxes. In FY 2008, the NEA awarded nearly \$122 million of appropriated funds through more than 2,200 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts.

NEA grants support a wide range of projects, including collaborations between state arts agencies and state education agencies, and K-12 partnerships between arts institutions and educators. Grants through the NEA are widely distributed to strengthen arts infrastructures and ensure broad access to the arts. In addition, the NEA distributes 40 percent of its program dollars to state arts agencies, on the condition that each state devotes its own appropriated funds as well.

Performing Arts Workshop believes that the arts are an intrinsic part of a successful education. Through the arts youth learn critical thinking, creative expression, and the skills necessary to become well-rounded contributing citizens. Funding for the NEA contributes directly to organizations like the Workshop, which supply youth with the necessary tools for achievement in today's dynamic society.

Please take this opportunity to show your support for the education youth need and deserve, by preserving funding for the NEA. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom DeCaigny  
Executive Director

Jessica Mele  
Deputy Director