



To: North Carolina's Congressional Delegation

Senator Ted Budd	Senator Thom Tillis	
Representative Alma Adams	Representative Donald Davis	Representative Chuck Edwards
Representative Valerie Foushee	Representative Virginia Foxx	Representative Pat Harrigan
Representative Mark Harris	Representative Richard Hudson	Representative Brad Knott
Representative Addison McDowell	Representative Tim Moore	Representative Greg Murphy
Representative Deborah Ross	Representative David Rouzer	

**NC Needs the NEA
May 2025**

Honorable Members of Congress,

The arts play a vital role in local communities and economies throughout North Carolina and across our nation. **Recent developments at the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) are deeply troubling** as hundreds of grants for local projects have been cancelled and massive staff reductions raise questions about the ability of the agency to meet its statutory mandates. Additionally, the White House has proposed eliminating the NEA in the latest FY26 budget proposal, as well as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which have also experienced significant grant cancellations and staff reductions in recent weeks.

Please sustain and protect both funding and staffing for the National Endowment for the Arts, a highly efficient agency that offers a large return on investment and supports consensus values cherished by all American communities. I urge you to also continue decades of bipartisan support by allocating **at least \$209 million for the NEA in the FY2026 Interior Appropriations bill**.

The NEA offers a big bang for the buck. More than \$500 million annually has been generated in matching support, illustrating why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable. The arts and creative industries give America's economy a competitive edge, achieving a \$36.8 billion trade surplus, adding \$1.2 trillion in value to the U.S. gross domestic product, and \$22 billion in North Carolina and creating 5.4 million jobs on American soil, 134,245 within our state's borders.

The NEA is committed to efficiency. Since inauguration the agency has proactively streamlined its grant programs, downsized the agency workforce and optimized technology. It manages a high volume of grants competitively adjudicated by citizen panels based on merit.

The NEA is an important partner of the national America 250 celebration and other White House goals. All of the state arts agencies who partner with the NEA are actively engaging in America 250 planning and programming. Disruption of federal support to state agencies like the NC Arts Council could weaken America 250 efforts in North Carolina and across the country.

The NEA supports the military, veterans, and their families through its Creative Forces program, a collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to serve the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The NEA and state arts agencies like NC Arts Council support arts activities that boost economic productivity, improve education outcomes, foster civic cohesion, facilitate good health, and preserve our cherished heritage and traditions for future generations. **These are consensus values that all Americans want for their communities and families.** And as the largest public funder of the arts and a leader in arts education in the United States, the NEA reaches communities often underserved by private dollars investing in 779 more counties than the 1,000 largest private foundations.

The NEA makes up only 0.003% of the overall federal budget and works to support more than just the nonprofit arts sector, which alone generates more than \$150 billion dollars in economic activity to the American economy (\$2.2 billion in North Carolina) and supports more than 2.6 million jobs, 38.000 of them in our state alone. This is a small investment for a huge return. This is not just good government; this is good business.

I urge you to support sustained investment in the NEA, NHS, and IMLS and work to protect the public servants and resources committed to those agencies so they may fulfill their Congressional mandates and improve the lives of every North Carolinian and all Americans.

Signed,

Arts North Carolina
Alarka Expeditions
Anything For Our Youth Group
Blair
Bob Moog Foundation
Burnsville Candle Company, LLC
Cabarrus Arts Council
Caroline Calouche & Co.
Caswell Council for the Arts
Charlotte Ballet
Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center
City Youth Ballet
Courtney Salton Fine Art
Florence Thomas Art School
Freeman Clayworks
GoingBarefoot LLC
Haywood County Arts Council
Heather Almond Music
Hickory Choral Society
Iredell Arts Council
Junior Appalachian Musicians of Swain Co.
Lexington Glassworks
Love & Light Pottery
Madison County Arts Council
Mark Stephenson Fine Art
Moonchild LLC
Music Will
Nash County Arts Council
NFQ Productions
North Carolina Theatre Conference
Old Colony Players
Open Door Studios
Peel Gallery + Photo Lab
RADA Foundation
Sophie K Entertainment
Stanly County Arts Council
Stanly County Chorale
Temple Theatre
The Arts Council of Fayetteville & Cumberland Co.
The Uwharrie Players
Three Bone Theatre
Toe River Arts
Tryon Arts and Crafts School
Tryon Fine Arts Center
Wanda Robinson Art
Western Piedmont Symphony
Winston Salem Theatre Alliance
1901 Building Group