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**IMPACT OF PROPOSED CUT OF FIVE PERCENT
BY SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Senate Appropriations Committee has proposed an \$8.5 million reduction to the President's FY 95 budget request for the National Endowment for the Arts, a cut which would reduce the agency's budget to \$161.6 million for the 1995 fiscal year. As the Arts Endowment has already suffered major cuts to its budget over the last several years -- down from a high of \$175.9 million in FY 92 -- such a reduction would be devastating.

The following shows the impact such cuts would have to the targeted programs:

PRESENTING AND COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

Proposed Cut -- \$1.903 Million (40.5% cut)

- * the program has already lost \$1 million over the past four years alone
- * cuts would extinguish the Program's four-year campaign to extend Endowment grant activity to rural and underserved areas
- * seed money for regranting programs, such as those partnerships with the Bush and Rockefeller Foundations, would evaporate, thereby limiting access to the arts for millions of Americans in rural areas
- * the commissioning side of the program would be decimated, destroying the R&D function of artistic laboratories -- laboratories where new and challenging artistic discoveries are made that often go on to receive general acclaim
- * competition for P&C grants would become so severe that only large organizations with sophisticated development infrastructures would be able to invest the resources to compete for the remaining dollars
- * small, community-based, grassroots, volunteer, inner-city and rural organizations -- organizations which provide vital arts education programming for children -
- would, in effect, be cut out of the funding pie

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Proposed Senate Cuts -- Page Two

THEATER PROGRAM

Proposed Cut -- \$3.101 Million (42% cut)

- * the Theater Program has already suffered a \$2 million reduction since 1989
- * the Program last year eliminated the entire Professional Theater Training category and since 1990 has eliminated or placed on an alternate funding cycle an additional seven categories
- * the cuts could effectively wipe out all categories except funding to Professional Theater Companies, which would then have to be reduced by an additional \$2.2 million
- * fellowships, such as the Playwrights Fellowships awarded to Pulitzer Prize winner Wendy Wasserstein and A.R. Gurney, would be vitiated
- * applying the reduction exclusively to Professional Theater Companies, a category that has been cut by over \$600,000 since 1990, would:
 - o jeopardize the virtual survival of some of the nation's major theater companies, more than 20 of which operated last year under budget deficits of \$1 million or more
 - o essentially shut down the touring component of 40 percent of theaters supported by the Endowment that tour to rural and underserved areas
 - o fundamentally eliminate educational programming for children and theater-for-youth programs throughout the country
 - o create catastrophic consequences for small community theaters in every state which rely on Endowment grants to help leverage matching funds
 - o obliterate funding for the development of new plays, such as was awarded for the likes of "Driving Miss Daisy"
 - o basically eradicate support for small theaters engaged in puppetry arts, experimental works, classical ensembles, movement theater and multi-media theater as well as those theaters which are community-based, inner city or rural in nature

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Proposed Senate Cuts -- Page Three

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

Proposed Cut -- \$2.043 Million (41.7% cut)

- * the Program has already been reduced by \$1.2 million since the 1989 fiscal year
- * cuts would decimate Visual Artists Fellowships, which have been a mainstay of Endowment support to the visual arts community since the earliest days of the Endowment and have been awarded to such artists as Chuck Close and Laurie Anderson
- * cuts to Visual Artists Fellowships would result in either much smaller grants (with little real economic impact to the recipients) or substantially fewer grants, which would create profound competition for a category that in itself comprises nearly one-third of total Endowment application activity and that presently awards fellowships to less than two percent of applicants
- * cuts would exterminate the regional fellowship program, which helps provide visual artists fellowships through regional organizations covering all 50 states
- * cuts would also be enough to totally wipe out the Visual Artists Organizations category which supports scores of small, culturally diverse arts organizations which often provide exhibit space for emerging artists
- * cuts would jeopardize Visual Artists Public Projects which not only help local communities incorporate the arts into their public spaces, such as the Calder sculpture in Grand Rapids, Michigan or the Challenger Memorial in south Florida, but also education programs that create a better understanding of contemporary visual art

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Proposed Senate Cuts -- Page Four

CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Proposed Cut -- \$0.632 Million (5% cut)

- * since 1979, when a total of \$30 million in Challenge Grants were awarded, the Challenge Grant Program has suffered over \$17 million in budget cuts
- * as most FY 94 Challenge Grants were awarded to augment organizations' endowments or help reduce outstanding debt, the proposed cut would severely debilitate the Program's ability to impact the long-term fiscal stability of even the most highly regarded arts organizations
- * the funding of model projects, such as the San Francisco Symphony's AIMS Project which introduces arts education into every fourth grade class in the San Francisco school district, would be substantially reduced
- * reducing the size of Challenge Grants proportionally decreases the leveraging capacity of organizations to raise matching dollars from the private sector