Community Arts Partnership Act (1994): Correspondence 03

Roche Schulfer
Judith E. Golub

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August 5, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

On behalf of the American Arts Alliance representing over 2,600 community based performing, presenting, and exhibiting arts institutions across the country, we write to thank you for your leadership role in including the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act. (ESEA, S. 1513). However, we remain deeply concerned about the program’s trigger mechanism which would defund the initiative unless the NEA, NEH, and the IMS receive FY95 funding at their FY94 levels. Given the House approved 2% cut and the Senate approved 5% cut to the NEA’s FY95 appropriation, this important new program is almost certain to be ineligible for funding before it even has a chance to function. We therefore urge you to eliminate the trigger mechanism during conference.

As you well know, the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth would encourage local school systems and community cultural organizations to form creative partnerships that provide at-risk students with innovative, positive learning experiences. Through demonstration grants, the initiative would help improve the educational performance and future potential of at-risk children and youth by bringing the arts to these children.

Arts organizations repeatedly have demonstrated their unique ability to promote learning and instill in students self-esteem and self-confidence. Organizations, such as the Intiman Theatre Company in Seattle, Washington, conduct acting workshops in public schools to help students, who speak English as a second language adapt to their new environment. Another arts group, the Boston Ballet, provides education and training in the art of dance to young people who presently do not have this opportunity due to the lack of cultural education in the public schools and/or their socio-economic background.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure the viability of the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth. We also would like to thank David Evans and Daniel Ritter for their advice and guidance on this issue. Please contact Lee Kessler at the Arts Alliance for additional information.

Sincerely,

Roche Schulfer
Chair

Judith E. Golub
Executive Director
“TITLE XI—CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH

“SEC. 11101. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth Act of 1994’.

“SEC. 11102. FINDINGS.

“The Congress finds that—

“(1) with local school budget cuts there are inadequate arts and cultural programs available for children and youth in schools, especially at the elementary school level;

“(2) children and youth who receive instruction in the arts and humanities, or who are involved in cultural activities, remain in school longer and are more successful than children who do not receive such instruction;

“(3) school-university partnerships that upgrade teacher training in the arts and humanities have significantly contributed to improved instruction and achievement levels of school-aged children; and

“(4) museum outreach, cultural activities and informal education for at-risk children and youth have contributed significantly to the educational
achievement and enhanced interest in learning of at-risk children and youth.

"SEC. 11103. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

"(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) GRANT FROM SECRETARY.—(A) The Secretary, by grant, shall award all funds appropriated under section 11108 to the Committee established under subsection (b) to enable such Committee to award subgrants in accordance with paragraph (2).

"(B) The Committee established under subsection (b) may reserve not more than 5 percent of the grant funds received under paragraph (1) in each fiscal year for the costs of administration.

"(2) SUBGRANTS.—(A) From grant funds received under paragraph (1)(A) and not reserved under paragraph (1)(B), the Committee established under subsection (b) shall award subgrants to eligible entities to enable such entities to improve the educational performance and potential of at-risk children and youth by providing comprehensive and coordinated educational and cultural services to such children and youth.

"(B) Each eligible recipient may reserve not more than 5 percent of any subgrant funds received
under this part in each fiscal year for the costs of administration.

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this title, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) for purposes of determining eligibility for a subgrant under this title to serve in-school children and youth, a partnership between—

“(i) a local educational agency or an individual school that is eligible to participate in a schoolwide program under section 1114; and

“(ii) at least 1 institution of higher education, museum, local arts agency, or cultural entity that is accessible to individuals within the school district of such local educational agency or school, and that has a history of providing quality services to the community, which may include—

“(I) a nonprofit institution of higher education, local arts agency, cultural institution, or zoological or botanical facility; or

“(II) a private for-profit entity with an effective history of training
children and youth in the arts or humanities; and

"(B) for purposes of determining eligibility for a subgrant under this title to serve out-of-school youth, a partnership between—

"(i) at least 1 entity described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) at least 1 entity described in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A).

"(b) NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a committee to be known as the National Committee on Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth (referred to in this title as the 'Committee').

"(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be comprised of 8 members, of whom—

"(A) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education;

"(B) 2 members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities;

"(C) 2 members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts; and
“(D) 2 members shall be appointed by the Director of the Institute of Museum Services.

“(c) AWARD OF SUBGRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall award subgrants under this title to eligible entities seeking to carry out programs designed to—

“(A) promote and enhance educational and cultural activities;

“(B) provide integration of community cultural resources into the regular curriculum and school day;

“(C) focus school and cultural resources in the community on coordinated cultural services to address the needs of at-risk children and youth;

“(D) provide effective cultural programs to facilitate the transition from preschool programs to elementary school programs, including programs under the Head Start Act and part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(E) facilitate school-to-work transition from secondary schools and alternative schools to job training, higher education, and employ-
ment through educational programs and activities that utilize school resources;

“(F) increase parental and community involvement in the educational, social, and cultural development of at-risk children and youth;

or

“(G) develop programs and strategies that—

“(i) provide high-quality coordinated educational and cultural services; and

“(ii) are designed to integrate such coordination into the regular curriculum and to replicate the services in other schools.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Subgrants awarded under this title shall be of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective.

“(3) COORDINATION.—(A) The Committee shall award subgrants under this title only to eligible entities that agree to coordinate activities carried out under this part with other Federal, State, and local programs designed to serve the purposes and target populations described in this title.

“(B) The Committee shall award subgrants under this title so as to ensure nonduplication of
services provided by subgrant recipients and services
provided by—

“(i) the National Endowment for the Hu-
manities;

“(ii) the National Endowment for the Arts;

and

“(iii) the Institute for Museum Services.

“(4) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
subgrants under this title the Committee, to the ex-
tent feasible, shall ensure an equitable geographic
distribution of such subgrants.

“(5) PRIORITY.—In awarding subgrants under
this title the Committee may give priority to eligible
entities that provide comprehensive services that ex-
tend beyond traditional school or service hours.

“(6) RENEWAL.—The recipient of a subgrant
under this title may be eligible for funding for a
maximum of 5 years, if the Committee determines
that the eligible recipient has made satisfactory
progress toward the achievement of the program
goals described in the application.

“(7) CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES.—The Com-
mittee shall establish and transmit to the Secretary
criteria and procedures for awarding subgrants
under this title. The Secretary shall publish such criteria and procedures in the Federal Register.

"(d) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity seeking a subgrant under this title shall submit an application to the Committee at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Committee may reasonably require.

"(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted to the Committee pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) describe the cultural entity or entities that will participate in the partnership;

"(B) describe the target population to be served;

"(C) describe the services to be provided;

"(D) describe a plan for evaluating the success of the program;

"(E) in the case of each local educational agency or school participating in the eligible recipient partnership, describe how the activities assisted under this title will be perpetuated beyond the duration of the subgrant;

"(F) describe the manner in which the eligible entity will seek to improve the educational achievement or future potential of at-risk chil-
dren and youth through more effective coordination of cultural services in the community;

"(G) describe the overall and operational goals of the program; and

"(H) describe training that will be provided to individuals who are not trained to work with children and youth, and how teachers will be involved.

"(e) TARGET POPULATION.—To be eligible for a subgrant under this title, an eligible entity shall serve—

"(1) students enrolled in schools participating in a schoolwide program under section 1114 and the families of such students to the extent practicable;

"(2) out-of-school children and youth at risk of disadvantages resulting from teenage parenting, substance abuse, recent migration, disability, limited-English proficiency, illiteracy, being the child of a teenage parent, living in a single parent household, or dropping out of school; or

"(3) any combination of in-school and out-of-school at-risk children and youth.

"SEC. 11104. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subgrants awarded under this title may be used—
“(1) to plan, develop, acquire, expand, and improve school-based or community-based coordinated educational and cultural programs to strengthen the educational performance and future potential of in-school or out-of-school at-risk children and youth through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts for services, or administrative coordination;

“(2) to provide at-risk students with integrated cultural activities designed to develop a love of learning that fosters the smooth transition of preschool children to elementary school;

“(3) to design collaborative cultural activities for students in secondary or alternative schools that ensure the smooth transition to job training, higher education, or full employment;

“(4) to provide child care for children of at-risk students who would not otherwise be able to participate in the program;

“(5) to provide transportation necessary for participation in the program;

“(6) to develop curriculum materials in the arts;

“(7) for staff development activities that encourage the integration of the arts into the curriculum;
“(8) for stipends that allow local arts and humanities professionals to work with at-risk children and youth in schools;

“(9) for training individuals who are not trained to work with children and youth;

“(10) for cultural programs that encourage the active participation of parents in the education of their children;

“(11) for programs that use the arts and culture to reform current school practices, including lengthening the school day or academic year;

“(12) for equipment or supplies that the Committee determines appropriate; and

“(13) for evaluation, administration, and supervision.

“(b) TEACHERS.—Each recipient of a subgrant under this title serving in-school children and youth shall carry out the activities described in the application with the involvement of a certified teacher or trained instructor.

"SEC. 11105. PLANNING SUBGRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may award planning subgrants to eligible entities under this title.

“(b) AMOUNT.—A planning subgrant shall be in an amount not to exceed $50,000.
“(c) DURATION.—A planning subgrant shall be for a period of not more than 1 year.

“(d) LIMITATIONS.—An eligible entity may receive not more than 1 planning subgrant under this section.

“SEC. 11106. PAYMENTS; AMOUNTS OF AWARD; COST SHARE; LIMITATIONS.

“(a) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall pay to each eligible entity having an application approved under section 11103, the Federal share of the cost of the activities described in the application.

“(b) COST SHARE.—

“(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a subgrant under this title shall be 80 percent of the cost of carrying out the activities described in the application.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of a subgrant under this title shall be 20 percent of the cost of carrying out the activities described in the application and may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including the provision of equipment, services, or facilities.

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) NONINSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES.—Not more than 25 percent of the subgrant funds provided in any fiscal year under this title may be used
for noninstructional activities such as the activities
described in paragraphs (4), (5), and (12) of section
11104(a).

"(2) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.—
Subgrant funds awarded under this title shall be
used to supplement and not supplant the amount of
funds made available from non-Federal sources, for
the activities assisted under this title.

"SEC. 11107. MODELS.
"The Secretary, in consultation with the Committee,
shall disseminate information concerning successful mod-
els under this title through the National Diffusion Net-
work.

"SEC. 11108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to subsection (b),
there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
title, $20,000,000 for fiscal year 1995, and such sums as
may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

"(b) LIMITATIONS.—
"(1) CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwith-
standing any other provision of law, no amounts
shall be made available to carry out this title in any
fiscal year unless there is appropriated—
"(A) not less than $177,000,000 for the
National Endowment for the Humanities under
the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965;

"(B) not less than $170,000,000 for the National Endowment for the Arts under such Act; and

"(C) not less than $28,000,000 for the Institute for Museum Services under the Museum Services Act.

"(2) PLANNING SUBGRANTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the amount appropriated in each fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used for planning subgrants under section 11105.