

2016

Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Speech 05

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FACT SHEET**FY 1995 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

- o The President's budget requested \$170.1 million in FY 1995 for the National Endowment for the Arts, an amount equal to the Endowment's FY 1994 budget.
- o On June 23, 1994, the House of Representatives passed an amendment to H.R. 4602, the FY 95 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which reduced the budget request for the Arts Endowment by 2 percent to \$167.6 million.
- o The Senate Appropriations Committee recommended a reduction of 5 percent (\$8.5 million) from the President's FY 95 budget request, reducing the agency's budget to \$161.6 million, which is \$12.8 below the FY 1993 funding level and \$14.3 million below the FY 1992 funding level. The reduction would lower the agency's appropriation to a level below that for FY 1984. The Senate Appropriations Committee reduction targeted four specific Endowment programs:
 - Theater** (\$3.1 million reduction = 42% reduction)
 - Visual Arts** (\$2.04 million = 41.7% reduction)
 - Presenting & Commissioning** (\$1.9 million = 40.5% reduction)
 - Challenge** (\$0.63 million = 5% reduction)
- In addition, **Treasury Matching Grants** would be reduced by \$0.82 million (5% reduction). Treasury and Challenge grants require a 3 to 1 match.
- o The Senate Appropriations Committee's 5% reduction would affect core cultural institutions, including theaters, museums, dance companies, jazz and chamber music groups, symphonies, and concert halls. Reduced funding also could threaten projects such as:
 - Children's educational programs and festivals;
 - Community and neighborhood arts projects;
 - Rural and underserved community initiatives;
 - Inner-city, at-risk youth projects;
 - Culturally diverse organizations; and
 - Major cultural festivals

TALKING POINTS
FY 1995 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

- o **The Senate Appropriations Committee's recommendation of a 5 percent reduction in the FY 95 appropriation for the Arts Endowment would bring the agency's appropriations to a level below that for FY 1984.**
 - Over the last several years, the Endowment has withstood serious reductions in its annual appropriations. The 5% reduction would reduce the agency's budget to \$161.6 million for FY 1995, which is \$12.8 million below the FY 1993 appropriation and \$14.3 million below the FY 1992 funding level.
 - The \$4.2 million reduction in the agency's budget last year forced the elimination of the Professional Theater Training and Dance Heritage Initiative programs, along with other funding reductions in virtually all of the Endowment's programs.
 - Currently, the agency's buying power is down 46% from 1979.

- o **The five percent reduction would have a significant impact on the nation's core cultural institutions and projects which benefit children, communities, and at-risk youth.**
 - The five percent funding reduction proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee targets four programs:
 - Theater** (\$3.1 million reduction = 42% reduction)
 - Visual Arts** (\$2.04 million = 41.7% reduction)
 - Presenting & Commissioning** (\$1.9 million = 40.5% reduction)
 - Challenge** (\$0.63 million = 5% reduction)
 - In addition, **Treasury Matching Grants** would be reduced by \$0.82 million (5% reduction). Treasury and Challenge grants require a 3 to 1 match.
 - Core cultural institutions such as theaters, museums, dance companies, jazz and chamber music groups, symphonies, and concert halls would be severely affected by the reduction. In addition, projects that could be threatened by the reduction include: children's educational programs and festivals; community and neighborhood art centers; at-risk youth programs; rural and underserved community initiatives; cultural festivals; and visual artist exhibitions.

- **In addition to her goal of bringing "the best art to the most people," Jane Alexander, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts since October 1993, has taken steps that will increase the agency's accountability and strengthen the grant award process.** Jane Alexander has made changes in the Endowment's administration of grants, grantee reporting requirements, procedures for grantee requests for project changes, and has emphasized improvements in the selection of grant application review panels.

- **Chairman Alexander has developed and implemented initiatives in arts education, community-building through the arts, programs for at-risk youth, and partnerships with other government agencies and the private sector.** Chairman Alexander's initiatives with other agencies, local government, and private entities are designed to help young people stay in school and off the streets.
 - When young people are given the opportunity to be creative and express themselves in a positive way, they build self-discipline and self-confidence, skills necessary to be productive members of our society.
 - In addition, art instruction in kindergarten through twelfth grade, as recognized in the recently enacted Goals 2000 legislation, are a crucial ingredient in the education curriculum.
 - Every Endowment program, including the four programs targeted by the 5% cut, supports arts education projects throughout the country.
 - Since Chairman Alexander was unanimously confirmed by the Senate nine months ago, she's traveled to 35 states, meeting with mayors, school and city officials, artists, and arts organizations. Her travels and town meetings to big cities and rural areas across the country have resulted in overwhelming grassroots support in these communities.