

1975

Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1975): Correspondence 05

Jacqueline Skiles

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1975
FOUNDATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS

32 Union Square East, New York, N.Y. 10003

Phone Numbers: 212/533-0150-1

Nov. 21, 1975

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*(we can't afford
new stationery yet.)*

*P.S. We would
like to receive
a copy of any
report you
make on NEA*

The Honorable
Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman
United States Senate
Special Subcommittee on
Arts and Humanities

Dear Senator Pell:

Enclosed please find a copy of the
Art Workers News containing my "Open Letter
to Nancy Hanks" referred to in a recent issue
of the Washington Star (according to a friend).
(I have also sent copies of all members of your committee)
We have been most distressed by the treatment
we have received at the hands of Brian O'Doherty,
head of the Visual Arts Program at the Arts En-
dowment, this past year.

We would like to see the Endowment reauthor-
ized, at the highest possible appropriation, pro-
viding something is done about its bureaucratic
sluggishness and disdain for artists (as exper-
ienced by us this past year).

It was our suggestion to Artists Equity Assn.
president John Blair Mitchell that one thing
that must be instituted at NEA is a structured
and recognize appeal system so that an organiza-
tion has some recourse when a proposal is felt
to be unfairly judged or a group has not received
a fair hearing. Mitchell incorporated this point
in his testimony before Congressman Brademas's
committee.

We would also like to see more advocacy in
NEA on the behalf of the individual creative
artist--normally somewhat marginal economically
except when there are enough teaching jobs to
go 'round, which of course there are not now,
and suffering special hardships in the current
economic situation. Without the artist there
is no art and no future for institutions dedi-
cated to preserving our artistic heritage.

Our organization promotes the rights and
welfare of visual artists, broadly defined.
We would like to see NEA do likewise.

Sincerely, *Jacqueline Skiles*
Jacqueline Skiles