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Statement of US Conference of Mayors
(Two statements:
1. 6/26/74
2. 1/31/75)
Resolution 46.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR CITIES

WHEREAS, surveys, public demand and increasing private support and participation indicate that citizen involvement with the arts is strong and growing; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of the arts in quantitative and qualitative ways can no longer be sustained by traditional support resources;

WHEREAS, the arts are an essential element in providing the opportunity for a quality urban environment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts the following principles as guidelines for city action:

1. That city governments recognize the arts as an essential service, equal in importance to other essential services, and help to make the arts available to all their citizens.

2. That every city be encouraged to establish a public agency specifically concerned with the arts.

3. That the physical appearance of the city, its architectural heritage and its amenities, be acknowledged as a resource to be nurtured.

4. That cities should be encouraged to establish a percentage of the total costs of every municipal construction budget to be set aside for the purchase or commission of works of art.

5. That city governments working together with the public at large shall help to effect a new national goal: "That no American shall be deprived of the opportunity to experience (or to respond artistically to) the beauty in life by barrier of circumstance, income, background, remoteness or race."
WHEREAS, in times of high unemployment and rising inflation, creative artists, as much as any other group, experience great economic hardship, and

WHEREAS, creative artists are a vital resource to the quality of life in the urban environment,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopts the following principles as guidelines for city action:

1. That city governments, recognizing that the arts are an essential service, seek to provide employment to the individual creative artist: the choreographer, composer, visual artist or writer, through the means of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974 (CETA) to cultural setting of those cities.

2. That cities so employing creative artists make every effort to do so in ways which will provide public access to works realized by these artists.

3. That such access may be provided by the presence of artists in public schools, in hospitals and penal institutions, and in any and all other public facilities; by the installation of visual artwork in public places, by the creation of murals; by publication of poetry, fiction and other forms of the literary arts; and by the production of works for the performing arts.

4. That cooperation between Federal and Local Governments in the employment of the individual creative artist will directly benefit the American public by nurturing one of our most valuable natural resources: individual creativity.