Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 22

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April 14, 1994

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Longworth House Building 1433  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Engel:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard to the Community Arts Partnership Act.

At the outset, I want to congratulate you for the vigorous and successful effort you have made on behalf of this legislation in the House.

The concept that underpins your legislation is most certainly something with which I agree. I have long believed that we underestimate the value of the arts in the education of our children, and that we fail to make good utilization of the arts in elementary and secondary education.

I do, however, have some concerns with respect to the legislation. I believe very much that we ought to bring the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum Services into the loop in the administration and operation of a program of this nature.

I am also of the mind that we might want to provide greater targeting of the funds that could be available under the program. This would enable the funds to go to those communities most in need, which is very important in carrying out the purposes of your legislation.

As we proceed with our work on ESEA reauthorization, you may be assured that we will give very serious consideration to the Community Arts Partnership legislation. I am hopeful that we will be able to accommodate many of your concerns in this area, and we will definitely be working toward that goal.

With warmest regards, I am

Ever sincerely,

[Signature]