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CRS Report for Congress

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Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization and Background

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Summary

The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (NFAHA) is scheduled to be reauthorized in the 103d Congress. The purpose of this report is to give background on the major components of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities (NFAH), to explore reauthorization issues, to delineate arts funding and the FY 1995 Clinton Administration budget for cultural programs and to outline the Arts Education initiative that is part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994.

Status

The NFAHA established the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, which provides Federal support for the arts, humanities, and museums. Reauthorization of the NFAHA is under consideration in the 103d Congress, H. R. 2351 having been approved by the House and S. 1218 reported by the Senate.

Programs

The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities (NFAH) is composed of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum Services (IMS), and the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. The Federal Council is an advisory body that administers the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act that helps museums reduce their cost of commercial insurance for international art exhibitions.

Reauthorization

On June 17, 1993, reauthorization hearings on the NFAHA were held by the House Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations. They emphasized the recommendations submitted in September 1990 by The Independent Commission (authorized in statute to review NEA procedures and to help resolve the obscenity issue) that the Chairman of NEA should exercise full authority over the grant process. On June 22, 1993, the House Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations marked up a 2-year extension for NEA, NEH, and IMS. On June 29, 1993, the House Education and Labor Committee ordered reported H. R. 2351, the Arts, Humanities and Museums Amendments of 1993 (H. Rept. 103-186, printed July 21, 1993). On October 14, 1993, the House amended and passed H.R. 2351 by a vote of 304 to 119. Some proposed amendments were not agreed to: the Crane amendment to eliminate NEA; the Dornan amendment to reduce authorization levels by 40 percent for NEA, NEH, and



appropriation by 2.5% from the FY 1993 level, but allowed slight increases in NEH and IMS from the FY 1993 appropriations level. The table below delineates the FY 1994 appropriations for selected cultural activities.

FY 1995 Budget. The Clinton Administration's FY 1995 budget for cultural programs proposes to fund NEA, NEH, and IMS at the FY 1994 appropriated level. Some increases are reflected in the FY 1995 Budget for the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, the Holocaust Memorial Council, the Commission of Fine Arts and for the Arts in Education initiative. A small decrease is proposed for the Kennedy Center. Details are shown in the table below.

Selected FY 1994 Cultural Appropriations and FY 1995 Budget Request

	FY 1994 appropriation	FY 1995 budget request
NEA	\$170,229,000	\$170,229,000
NEH	177,491,000	177,491,000
IMS	28,777,000	28,777,000
Smithsonian*	302,349,000	319,200,000
Kennedy Center**	20,629,000	19,373,000
National Gallery of Art*	51,908,000	53,508,000
Commission of Fine Arts	805,000	842,000
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development	12,563,000	9,812,000
Holocaust Memorial Council	21,679,000	25,715,000
Arts in Education***	8,944,000	11,000,000

* Smithsonian and National Gallery funds are for salaries and expenses only.

** The Kennedy Center FY 1995 Budget includes operations and construction.

*** Section 1564, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Arts in Education

The Arts in Education program (The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Sec. 1564) currently sustains the role of the arts in elementary and secondary education through arts demonstration programs for children under the auspices of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Very Special Arts program for children with disabilities. The program also funds the Kennedy Center's Alliance for Arts Education, which is a national network of State arts education committees that helps integrate the arts into regular curriculum. H.R. 6, the House bill for the reauthorization of the ESEA and a version of the Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act, would amend the current Arts in Education program and expand it by inserting the Community Arts Partnership Act (H.R. 2933). Its purpose is to provide 5-year demonstration grants as seed money to local educational agencies to improve cultural resources for at-risk children and youth.