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FACT SHEET

Business Support of the Arts

--Business support of the arts reached a record level of $436 million in 1979, up from only $22 million in 1967.

--The arts are receiving a larger share of business' overall philanthropic contributions than ever before; of the total business contribution in 1979 to all philanthropic causes, the arts received 13.3%--up from only 8.9% in 1970.

--27% of the companies responding to a recent survey said they intended to increase their arts support over the next three years, and 50% said they planned to maintain their current level of support.

The Public and the Arts

--By a majority of 59% to 39%, Americans reject the idea that the arts are only for a privileged few.

--81% of the public feels it important to have more and better arts and cultural facilities for both the performing and visual arts in their communities.

--An 86% to 9% majority feels that it is important to the business and economy of their communities to have such facilities.

--51% of Americans favor paying an additional $25 a year in federal taxes to help support the arts, and an overwhelming 70% are willing to pay $5 additional.

The National Endowment for the Arts

--The $175 million in NEA funding that Carter's last budget proposed represents .0236% of the Federal budget, and even that fraction has decreased from the 1980 level of .0266%.

--The NEA's Challenge Grant Program, which is only one of the many Endowment programs requiring some matching funds, has awarded $84 million in grants during its three years of existence, and has generated $500 million in new support for the arts, from both private and local sources.

1 Triennial Survey of Business Support of the Arts, compiled by the Business Committee for the Arts
2 Americans and the Arts III, a survey conducted by the National Research Center of the Arts, an affiliate of Louis Harris and Associates