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May 3, 1990

TO: The Honorable Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate

FR: Board of Directors, National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies
C/o Robert L. Lynch, President & CEO

RE: Reauthorization of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 as amended through July 9, 1986

In our testimony delivered by Madeline Rabb on Friday, April 27, 1990, we focused as you know on our key issues: 1) reauthorize the National Endowment for the Arts without restrictive language, 2) expand it financially, 3) expand it conceptually making federal funding for the arts more accessible for all Americans.

Regarding this third area of accessibility, we feel that one of the most dramatic proven methods of enhancing both access and accountability is to expand the role of the local arts agency in this process. The end that over the last several years the NALAA Board of Directors along with the NALAA Reauthorization Committee have examined the existing legislation and discussed possible changes and additions. The following outlines first (A) the general suggestions that NALAA asks to be considered and second (B) specific language change suggestions.

(A)

1) The general language of the Act should relate more specifically to issues of cultural diversity, underserved areas, and availability of the arts to the widest cross section of the American public.

2) There should be included a definition of a local arts agency

3) There should be clarification where appropriate of the terms: "local", "arts agency", "local arts agency" and other related terms.

4) There should be included the term "local arts agency" in areas of the Act where the mandated involvement of local arts agencies seems to be warranted such as the composition of relevant committees.

5) There should be included the term "local arts agencies" in language areas discussing the development of local arts leadership.

6) There should be included the term "local arts agency" where appropriate in the section of the Act dealing with the Humanities since many local arts agencies are also heavily involved in serving the humanities.

7) The possibility of a study of the roles and the inter related impacts of funding for the arts from the federal, state, and local levels should be considered.

8) There should be an authorized recognition of National Arts week.
9) In the authorization section which mandates the direct flow of 20% of Federal dollars to state arts agencies it should be specified that each state in receipt of such funds involve, develop, and help support a local arts agency network in that state.

10) Because of the proven leveraging power of federal dollars at the local level there should be a discussion of a mechanism for legislated direct flow of new Federal dollars for the arts to the local government level whether through counties, municipalities, designated local arts agencies or another avenue.

We would be most excited to talk about any of the above points and the suggested legislative language changes below. We are also working on responses to some of the other suggestions that came out in the various testimonies regarding expanded roles in education, opening up the grantmaking process and other new ideas. Our feeling is that a number of important points were raised all of which need fine tuning and we are eager to help in the process if that would be of help to you.

In the meantime here are our suggested legislative language changes regarding local arts agencies.

(B)

Specific language change suggestions. The following amendments and changes are proposed to the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 as amended through July 9, 1986.

Page 2

Sec. 951 (Sec. 2) (5)
Add "and the local leadership" after "material conditions" in the second last line.

Page 3

Sec. 952 (Sec. 3)
Add (h): "The term local arts agency as defined by the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies means a community organization or an agency of city or county government which primarily provides financial support, services, or other programs for a variety of arts organizations and/or individual artists and the community as a whole."

Page 5

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (C) (7)
Add "and for the development of local arts leadership" after "the local level."

Page 6

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (g) (1)
Add "and adequate representation by a local arts agency," after "services in the arts"
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Page 3

Page 7

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (g) (2) provides
Add (F) "The plan must provide for an organized plan to assist in the development of local cultural leadership through local arts agencies."

Page 7

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (g) (2) (D) (i)
Add "local arts agencies" after the words "interested organizations"

Page 7

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (g) (2) (E) (i)
Add "local arts agencies" after "artists organizations"

Page 7

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (l) (1) (D) (iii)
Change "local organization" to "local arts agencies"

Page 11

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (l) (i) (F)
Add at the beginning "developing local cultural leadership through local arts agencies and"

Page 11

Sec. 954 (Sec. 5) (m)
Add, in line two, the word "arts" after "local" making it "local arts agencies"

Page 12

Sec. 955 (b) (2)
Add "local arts agency leaders," after "civic cultural leaders"
Add "local arts agencies," after "interested organizations"

Page 23

Sec. 956 (Sec. 7) (h) (1) (A)
Add the words "local arts agencies," after "cultural organizations"

Page 28

Sec. 957 (Sec. 8)
Add (e) the Council shall conduct a study to determine:
1. The nature and level of support to the arts in America at the federal, state, and local levels including an examination of the varying roles and impacts of each level.

Page 30

Sec. 959 (a) (8)
Add "who represent local arts agency leadership," after "and geographical factors" in line 41.

Page 42

Sec. 963 (a) (1) (A)
Add "local arts agency," after "educational."

Page 59

Add Title VII A National Arts Week
Sec. 701 Authority for a National Arts Week

(a) The Congress recognizes that for several years a national arts week has taken place and has been an important recognition mechanism for arts organizations, artists, local arts agencies, local public and private sector leadership, and for the arts in America.

(b) There is established a National Arts Week during the 3rd week of November each year.

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Endowment for the Arts $100,000 for the fiscal year 1990 and for each succeeding financial year ending prior to October 1, 1995 for the purpose of carrying out this subsection.