Community Arts Partnership Act (1994): Correspondence 04

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The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Education
Arts, and Humanities
648 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Pell:

Knowing of your commitment to education and the arts, I am writing to solicit your Senate sponsorship of the Community Arts Partnership Act. I have enclosed a copy of the legislation for your review, as well as additional information that may be of interest to you.

As you may know, I introduced H.R. 2933, the Community Arts Partnership Act, in August of last year in an effort to facilitate local arts in education programs. Since that time, H.R. 2933 has gained the cosponsorship of over 30 House members and over 100 arts and education organizations. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of Education to award demonstration grants to Chapter 1 eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to work in partnership with local cultural organizations and institutions of higher learning. The partnerships would work to improve the educational performance of at-risk children and youth by providing comprehensive and coordinated educational and cultural services. H.R. 2933 is designed to provide seed money to leverage resources from community cultural institutions for the benefit of the LEAs.

Grants would be renewable for a maximum of five years. The Secretary would have to ensure that there is equitable geographic distribution and equitable distribution to both urban and rural areas which have a high proportion of at-risk children. In addition, the Secretary would be required to disseminate information concerning successful models through the National Diffusion Network.
During mark-up in the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education, I offered H.R. 2933 as an amendment to H.R. 6 under Title III, Part E, Arts in Education. The amendment was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

I feel very strongly that the Community Arts Partnership Act must be retained in the final version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization. Your leadership in this area would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions regarding the legislation, please feel free to contact me or my legislative assistant, Nancy Weist, at x52464.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

ELE/nw
Enclosures
Summary:

The language authorizes the Secretary to award demonstration grants to Chapter 1 eligible LEAs to work in partnership with local cultural organizations and institutions of higher learning to improve the educational performance of at-risk children and youth by providing comprehensive and coordinated educational and cultural services. The legislation is designed to provide seed money to leverage resources from community cultural institutions for the benefit of the LEAs.

Grants may be renewable for a maximum of five years. The Secretary must ensure that there is equitable geographic distribution and equitable distribution to both urban and rural areas which have a high proportion of at-risk children. The Secretary is required to disseminate information concerning successful models through the National Diffusion Network.
In Title III, Part E - Arts in Education
Add Section 3502. - The Community Arts Partnership Act

1 "SEC. 3502. SHORT TITLE.
2 "This part may be cited as the Community Arts Partnership Act of 1994".
4 (a) FINDINGS.
5 "Congress finds that-
6 "(1) with local school budgets cut there are inadequate arts programs available for children in schools, especially at the elementary level;
7 "(2) the arts promote progress in academic subjects as shown by research conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts;
8 "(3) the arts access multiple human intelligences and develop higher-order thinking skills;
9 "(4) the arts generate self-esteem and positive emotional responses to learning; and
10 "(5) children who receive instruction in the arts remain in school longer and are more successful than children who do not receive such instruction.
19 (b) PURPOSE.
20 "The purpose of this part is to make demonstration grants to eligible entities to improve the educational per-
formance and future potential of at risk-children and youth by providing comprehensive and coordinated educational and cultural services.

(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

(1) IN GENERAL.-The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the costs of the activities described in subsection (f).

(2) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.-The Secretary shall award grants under this Act only to program designed to-

(A) promote educational and cultural services;

(B) provide multi-year services to at-risk children and youth;

(C) serve the target population described in subsection (e);

(D) provide integration of community cultural resources in the regular curriculum;

(E) focus school and cultural resources in the community on coordinated cultural services to address the needs of at-risk children and youth;

(F) provide effective cultural linkages from preschool programs, including the Head Start Act and preschool grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to elementary schools;

(G) facilitate school-to-work transition from secondary schools and alternative schools to job
training, higher education, and employment;

"(H) increase parental and community involve-
ment in the educational, social, and cultural develop-
ment of at-risk youth; or

"(I) replicate programs and strategies that pro-
vide high quality coordinated educational and cul-
tural services and that are designed to integrate
such coordination into the regular curriculum.

"(3) REQUIREMENT OF COORDINATION. - Grants
may only be awarded under this part to eligible entities
that agree to coordinate activities carried out under other
Federal, State, and local grants, received by the members
of the partnership for purposes and target populations de-
scribed in this part, into an integrated service delivery sys-
tem located at a school, cultural, or other community-
based site accessible to and utilized by at-risk youth.

"(4) DURATION. - Grants made under this part may
be renewable for a maximum of 5 years if the Secretary
determines that the eligible recipient has made satisfac-
tory progress toward the achievement of the program ob-
jectives described in application.

"(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. - In awarding
grants under this part, the Secretary shall ensure-
"(A) an equitable geographic distribution; and
"(B) an equitable distribution to both urban
and rural areas with a high proportion of ar-risk
youth as defined in subsection (e).

(d) ELIGIBILITY.

(1) SERVICES FOR IN-SCHOOL YOUTH. - For the purpose of providing a grant under this part to serve in-school children and youth, the term "eligible entity" means a partnership between a local education agency that is eligible for funds under title I of this Act, and at least 1 institution of higher education or cultural entity located within or accessible to the geographical boundaries of the local education agency with a history of providing quality services to the community, and which may include:

(A) nonprofit institutions of higher education; museums; libraries; performing, presenting and exhibiting arts organizations; literary arts organizations; local arts organizations; and zoological and botanical organizations

(B) private for-profit entities with a history of training children and youth in the arts.

(2) SERVICES FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH. - For purposes of providing a grant under this part to serve out-of-school youth, the term 'eligible entity' means a partnership between at least 1 entity of the type described in paragraph (A) or (B) of subsection (1), or a local education agency eligible for funds under chapter 1 of title I of this Act and at least 1 cultural entity described in subsection (1).
(e) TARGET POPULATION.

"In order to receive a grant under this part, an eligible entity shall serve-

"(1) students enrolled in schools in participating schoolwide projects assisted under title I of this Act and the families of such students;
or

"(2) out-of-school youth at risk of having limited future options as a result of teenage pregnancy and parenting, substance abuse, recent migration, disability, limited English proficiency, family migration, illiteracy, being the child of a teen parent, living in a single parent household, or being a high school dropout; or

"(3) any combination of in school and out-of-school at-risk youth.

(f) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

"(1) IN GENERAL. - Funds made under this part may be used-

"(A) to plan, develop, acquire, expand, and improve school-based or community-based coordinated educational and cultural programs to strengthen the educational performance and future potential of in-school and out-of-school at-risk youth through cooperative agreements, contracts for services, or administrative coordination;
"(B) to provide at-risk students with integrated cultural activities designed to develop a love of learning to ensure the smooth transition of preschool children to elementary school;

"(C) to design collaborative cultural activities for students in secondary or alternative schools that ensure the smooth transition to job training, higher education, or full employment;

"(D) to provide child care for children of at-risk students who would not otherwise be able to participate in the program;

"(E) to provide transportation necessary for participation in the program;

"(F) to work with existing school personnel to develop curriculum materials and programs in the arts;

"(G) to work with existing school personnel on staff development activities that encourage the integration of the arts into the curriculum;

"(H) for stipends that allow local artists to work with at-risk children and youth in the schools;

"(I) for cultural programs that encourage the active participation of parents in their children's education;

"(J) for programs that use the art reform current school practices, including lengthening the school day or academic year;
(K) for appropriate equipment and necessary supplies; and

(L) for evaluation, administration, and supervision.

(2) PRIORITY. - In providing assistance under this part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that provide comprehensive services that extend beyond traditional school or service hour, that may include year round programs that provide services in the evenings and on weekends.

(3) PLANNING GRANTS. -

(A) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity may submit an application to the Secretary for a planning grants for an amount not to exceed $50,000. Such grants shall be for periods of not more than 1 year.

(B) LIMIT ON PLANNING GRANTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated in each fiscal year under this part shall be used for grants under this subsection, and an eligible entity may receive not more than 1 such planning grant.

(g) GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(1) IN GENERAL. — Each eligible entity desiring a grants under this part shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably
"(2) CONTENTS. — Each application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(A) describe the cultural entity or entities that will participate in the partnership;

(B) describe the target population to be served;

(C) describe the services to be provided;

(D) describe a plan for evaluating the success of the program;

(E) describe, for a local educational agency participant, how services will be perpetuated beyond the length of the grant;

(F) describe the manner in which the eligible entity will improve the educational achievement or future potential of at-risk youth through more effective coordination of cultural services in the community;

(G) describe the overall and operational goals of the program; and

(H) describe the nature and location of all planned sites where services will be delivered and a description of services which will be provided at each site.

(h) PAYMENTS — FEDERAL SHARE.

"(1) PAYMENTS. — The Secretary shall pay to each eligible entity having an application approved under subsection
1 (g) the Federal share of the cost of the activities described in the application.

3 "(2) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS. - The amount of a grant made under this part may not be less than $100,000 or exceed $500,000 in the first year of such grant.

6 "(3) FEDERAL SHARE. - The Federal share shall be

8 80 percent.

8 "(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE. - The non-Federal share shall be equal to 20 percent and may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including facilities or services.

11 "(5) LIMITATION. - Not more than 25 percent of any grant under this part may be used for noninstructional services such as those described in paragraphs D, E, and L of subsection (f).

15 "(6) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT. - Grant funds awarded under this part shall be used to supplement not supplant the amount of funds made available from non-Federal sources, for the activities assisted under this part, in amounts that exceed the amounts expended for such activities in the year preceding the year for which the grant is awarded.

22 "(7) DISSEMINATION OF MODELS. - The Secretary shall disseminate information concerning successful models under this part through the National Diffusion Network.

25 work.
1 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.

2 "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subpart, $75,000,000 for fiscal year 1995 and such sums as
4 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998,
5 and 1999."