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Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 13

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May 5, 1994

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman
Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, I urge you to support the "Community Arts Partnership Act," during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (S. 1513).

Community Arts Partnership grants help to ensure the continuation of invaluable liaisons between cultural organizations and the public schools, whose combined efforts are aimed at improving the educational performance of at-risk youth. The Los Angeles Philharmonic strives to serve those students, who in their daily lives confront gangs and drugs in our hard-pressed urban neighborhoods, by participating in a citywide afterschool program called "L.A.'s BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow)." One aspect of this important program gives young people perhaps their only opportunity to experience and explore great music and the arts, presented as a hopeful alternative to the violence and drug-related crime.

Certainly you must realize that the arts contribute not only to the aesthetic beautification of our surroundings, but also to a more positive dialog and exchange of ideas through creative expression. Secretary Riley recently elevated the arts to be included in the core curriculum of our nation's schools. The House of Representatives voted to include the Community Arts Partnership Act in its version of the reauthorization bill (H.R. 6). Your Committee's support of this amendment will allow school districts to leverage existing community cultural resources in order to provide programs like L.A.'s BEST.

Our young people need to be shown that life does have a brighter side, and our schools need the grants to provide programs that do just that. I thank you in advance for your leadership in supporting the Community Arts Partnership Act.

Sincerely,

Ernest Fleischmann

cc. Members of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
American Arts Alliance
American Council for the Arts