Relating to the National Endowment for the Arts, we call on Congress to:

1. Include a second round of funding to address the $4.5 billion in estimated economic damage to the nonprofit arts industry. As the CARES Act was being considered, Senate and House arts leaders proposed $4 billion in COVID-19 relief funding to support the nation’s cultural infrastructure. We continue to support that request.
2. We request that eligibility for a second round of COVID-19 economic funding to support jobs and operational stability of nonprofit arts organizations be fully available to all eligible organizations as defined in the NEA’s authorization statute (as described in 20 U.S.C. §954). Because of the limited amount of COVID-19 funding in the first round, the NEA had to restrict eligibility to only grantees within the last four fiscal years. This restriction limited eligibility to about 3,700 nonprofit cultural organizations out of more than 100,000 nonprofit cultural organizations nationwide.
3. We also request a provision be included in the next COVID-19 package that would, for the duration of that legislation, enable national arts service organizations to subgrant federal arts funds to community-based arts and culture organizations across the country in order to assist the NEA to quickly and efficiently support the nation’s cultural infrastructure.
4. We request that this second round of funding, like the first, include a waiver from the traditional matching requirement, and that the funds be used for general operating support.
5. On a related note, we request reprogramming language be included to enable current NEA grantees (with active FY 2019 and FY 2020 grant awards) be given a waiver from the grant matching requirement and that if there is any balance that has not been drawn yet for project support, that these grantees be given the option to convert these grant funds for general operating support and to waive the grant match requirement if they are incurring covid-19 economic losses. This language does not require any additional federal funds. It is a reprogramming of previously appropriated funds.

In coordination with the national nonprofit sector, and in support of the bipartisan “Save Organizations that Serve (SOS) America Act,” (H.R. 6408) we request a COVID-19 relief package include:

* Allow all 501(c)(3) nonprofits to qualify for the SBA loans created in the CARES Act by removing the 500-employee caps;
* Provide $60 billion in emergency assistance loans to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations;
* Expand the above-the-line, universal charitable deduction by eliminating the cap and allowing taxpayers to retroactively claim the deduction in 2019; and
* Prioritize nonprofits and their employees in future unemployment insurance relief.

We request arts eligibility for additional forms of disaster relief, such as Community Development Block Grants, education and lifelong learning programs, and health and wellness initiatives.