SUMMARY OF 2019 CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS

Appropriations

- Continue bipartisan support with a budget of $167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.
- Support $38.6 million for FY 2020 for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the recently reauthorized Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- Support continued FY 2020 appropriations for:
  - Assistance for Arts Education at U.S. Dept. of Education (L-HHS-ED) at $40 million.
  - Well-Rounded Education by fully funding ($1.6 billion) Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG, Title IV)
  - After-School by fully funding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers ($1.1 billion)
  - Corporation for Public Broadcasting at no less than $445 million
  - Office of Citizen Exchanges within the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at $115 million.

Arts Education (K-12)

- Make explicit the opportunity for the arts to help achieve “Title I” objectives.
- Thoroughly implement the professional development opportunities for arts educators and school leaders in “Title II” and the expanded STEM program eligibility for the arts in Title IV, Part A.

Higher Education

- Support efforts to improve the affordability and accessibility of higher education for all students, including continued access to Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs.
- Oppose varying financial aid based on future earning potential and ensure for-profit colleges, a substantial number of which offer arts degrees, are properly monitored to reduce their incentive to maximize profits over student success.

Tax Policy

- Restore and expand the full value and scope of charitable giving incentives for all taxpayers through enacting a universal charitable deduction and further policies that will strengthen the nonprofit community.
- Take action to repeal the new tax on nonprofit expenses, strengthen the capacity of the arts sector to support communities, and protect nonprofit nonpartisanship.
- Reinstate and expand incentives for charitable giving by enacting a universal charitable deduction available to all taxpayers.
- Enact the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, which would allow artists to deduct the fair market value of their work when they donate it to charitable collecting institutions.
- Update the qualified performing artist tax deduction; maintain artist eligibility in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the Historic Tax Credit, and the income tax exemption for private activity bonds, often employed to finance cultural infrastructure projects that benefit the public.
Creative Economy, Visa Policy, and Juvenile Justice
- Cosponsor the CREATE Act to invest in the country’s workforce and creative economy, and recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community.
- Support efforts to extend FEMA tool replacement grants to self-employed workers via inclusion in FEMA-related legislation (e.g. disaster supplemental appropriation).
- Reintroduce and enact the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act which will require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reduce the total processing time for petitions filed by, or on behalf of, nonprofit arts-related organizations.
- Build upon the successfully reauthorized Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA).
- Reformulate federal grant requirements to reward the inclusion of creative youth development principles and strengths-based strategies in programs that serve youth in the juvenile justice system.

Arts in Health
- Ensure implementation of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (PL 115-271), improving coverage of complementary and integrative health services, such as creative arts therapies, through the Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management Study.
- Support research funding for creative arts therapies and arts in health programs within federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- In response to the December 2018 Texas v. United States court decision, preserve Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions that provide access to affordable healthcare coverage for artists and other creative occupations.

Arts and the Military
- Support legislation that improves access to evidence-based complementary and integrative treatments and telehealth for veterans, including creative arts therapies.
- Support increased funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense for creative arts therapies services and artist-directed programs for veterans, active military, and their families through community and wellness programs.

Arts and Transportation & Infrastructure
- Enact the Saving Transit Art Resources (STAR) Act to reinstate flexibility and allow transit authorities to incorporate art into federally-funded transit projects and facilities.

Arts & Technology
- Wireless technology: It is essential that the FCC protect wireless microphones and other devices used by performing arts entities that provide valuable public service. Congress should urge the FCC to provide licenses and geo-location database protection to preserve nonprofit performing arts and education operations and their financial investments in technical equipment.
- Net neutrality: Congress should undo the FCC’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” Order and reinstate the strong net neutrality protections that were put in place by the 2015 Open Internet Order and upheld by the court.
- Music licensing: Allow music creators to earn fair compensation for their work and oppose the misleading “Local Radio Freedom Act,” (H. Con. Res. 205/S. Con. Res. 5) which puts members of Congress on the record against compensating performers for their work broadcasted on terrestrial radio.

Members of the House of Representatives are encouraged to join the Congressional Arts Caucus and the Congressional STEAM Caucus. All Members of the Senate are encouraged to join the Senate Cultural Caucus.