

Federal Advocacy Report #12

Final Economic Stimulus Bill Contains \$50 Million for National Endowment for the Arts!



The final version of the economic stimulus bill **does** contain \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The funding is designated to assist the nation's arts and cultural workforce, likely through both NEA grants and distribution to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations for disbursement. At this time, no further details are available, but we'll keep you updated. President Obama is expected to sign the bill on Monday.

Many thanks to all who took the time to contact elected officials. The initial House version of the bill included funding for the NEA, but the Senate version did not, and for a time last week it seemed as if the Senate version would prevail. In addition, the Coburn Amendment (R-OK), which at first prohibited the use of stimulus dollars for casinos, aquariums, zoos, golf courses, swimming pools, stadiums, community parks, museums, theaters, arts centers and highway beautification projects, was amended to **allow** museums, arts centers and theaters access to stimulus dollars.

Americans for the Arts adds: "We would like to also thank some key leaders on Capitol Hill who really carried our voices into the conference negotiation room and throughout the halls of Congress: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Appropriations Chairman Dave Obey (D-WI), House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Norm Dicks (D-WA), and Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair Louise Slaughter (D-NY). We also want to publicly thank President Obama for taking the early lead in recognizing the role of the arts in economic development. These leaders were able to convincingly make the case that protecting jobs in the creative sector is integral to the U.S. economy."

And all of you who care about the arts and took action made the difference!

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