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**House Passes IRA Rollover Bill**



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On Thursday, February 12, the House passed H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015, which would permanently reinstate a set of charitable giving incentives that includes the [IRA Rollover](#). The IRA Rollover allows donors age 70½ to make tax-free distributions of up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA to a qualifying charitable organization. The final vote was 279-137. Many of you wrote to your Representatives sharing stories of how this giving incentive has supported the important work of your arts organization. Your voices were heard in this step for the legislation, and PAA thanks you for your advocacy.

The timing for Senate consideration isn't certain. The Senate Finance Committee has recently created tax reform working groups to start addressing comprehensive reform, and it is not clear whether the Senate will take up expired charitable tax provisions in the near term. While there is strong bipartisan support for these charitable giving incentives, the President has issued a veto threat over concerns of how to pay for the provisions.

PAA continues to meet with Congressional offices urging them to support this important measure.

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**FCC to Use Title II for Net Neutrality**



Chairman Wheeler [announced in Wired](#) that his new proposal for open internet—[net neutrality](#)—rules will classify broadband under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. This differs from the proposal Wheeler discussed at the FCC's May 15, 2014 open meeting which considered using Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to rewrite the rules.

Title II reclassification would give the FCC strong legal authority against content blocking and throttling as well as paid prioritization or "fast lanes." The proposal details will be discussed and voted on at the FCC's February 26 open meeting.

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### Wireless Technology Update



PAA participates in the Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group which asked its member organizations to prepare comments to submit to the FCC urging the [protection of wireless microphones](#) used in the performing arts.

The FCC has two open proceedings affecting wireless microphone operations. One proposes that entities using fewer than 50 microphones would not be able to register in a geo-location database which provides interference protection. In the other proceeding, the FCC is considering a longer-term home for wireless microphones in a different area of the broadcast spectrum. Such a move in the spectrum would mean arts organizations would have to purchase expensive new equipment.

Over 60 letters were sent to the FCC and posted on its website urging interference protection for wireless microphones in the performing arts as well as reimbursement if new equipment needs to be purchased. Reply comments in these two proceedings are due by February 25. Representatives Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ), the co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus, have agreed to take the lead on a Congressional sign-on letter which arts advocates will circulate on Arts Advocacy Day, urging the FCC to protect wireless microphones.

Stay tuned for updates as this issue develops.

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### **Art Works Deadline Today!**



Thursday, February 19 is the first deadline for the National Endowment for the Arts' [Art Works grants](#) to support new and existing projects for organizations. Matching grants are awarded in the range of \$10,000-\$100,000. Learn more about the Art Works program and if your project could be eligible for funding. The next Art Works deadline is July 23, 2015.

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### **Arts Advocacy Day: March 23-24**



Join fellow arts and culture advocates in Washington, DC for Arts Advocacy Day 2015, March 23-24. The annual event, organized by Americans for the Arts, features advocacy training workshops, peer networking and learning opportunities, and meetings with your congressional representatives and their staff where you can discuss the importance of the arts in your community. PAA is proud to be a national co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day. [Register today](#) to speak up for the arts on Capitol Hill.

You can still participate in this important day for the arts even if you're not traveling to DC. Stay tuned for an Action Alert just before Arts Advocacy Day linking you to our current issues. It will offer sample email templates which you'll be able to personalize and send to your legislators so that you can weigh in from home on the issues important to you.

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### **PAA in Austin April 16**



[Jim Nix](#), Flickr Creative Commons

In conjunction with its spring Board of Directors meeting in Austin, TX, PAA will hold a community conversation and learning exchange with the local arts and culture community on Thursday evening, April 16 at the Long Center for the Performing Arts. The event is co-hosted by Ballet Austin and National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures and co-sponsored by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin. More details coming soon.

The Performing Arts Alliance is a national network of more than 30,000 organizational and individual members comprising the professional, nonprofit performing arts and presenting fields. For more than 30 years, PAA has been the premiere advocate for America's professional nonprofit arts organizations, artists, and their publics before the US Congress and key policy makers. Through legislative and grassroots action, PAA advocates for national policies that recognize, enhance, and foster the contributions the performing arts make to America.

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