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PAA Advocacy Report: December 2014

Advocacy Update: IRA Charitable Rollover



Tax Credits, Flickr Creative Commons

PAA and other charitable giving advocates have been urging Congress this year to reinstate the [IRA Charitable Rollover](#). This important incentive allows individual donors age 70½ and older to make tax-free monetary gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to charitable organizations.

Rollover Reinstated for 2014

On December 3, the House passed H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014, which retroactively renews the rollover and other charitable giving incentives through the end of 2014. The Senate passed the same legislation on Dec. 16, and the bill now awaits the President's signature. This provision has not yet been made permanent, though: last week, the House voted on the Supporting America's Charities Act (H.R. 5806) which would make the IRA rollover permanent, along with two other tax incentives. This bill did not succeed.

Congress Passes FY15 Spending Bill



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Late in the evening on December 13, the Senate passed the FY15 spending bill for the federal government. The House passed it earlier that week. The President has signed this \$1.1 trillion spending bill into law. Dubbed the “CRomnibus,” the bill funds most of the government through FY15 and only the Dept. of Homeland Security through February.

What’s in it for the arts:

- Level [funding for the NEA](#) at \$146.021 million
- \$25 million for [arts education](#) programs at the Department of Education
- Arts in Education remains a stand-alone program; it will not be combined into a funding pool with other academic disciplines.

NEA and NPS Collaborate Via Art Works



[Glacier National Park](#), Steve Mullen, Flickr Creative Commons

To commemorate its 50th anniversary, [the NEA is collaborating with the National Park Service](#) (NPS) through its Art Works grant program to celebrate our nation’s national parks through the arts. This collaboration comes as NPS prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2016. The agencies encourage projects that connect, engage, and introduce communities to their national parks; examples can be found on the grant guidelines page as well as in the guidelines for each artistic discipline.

The NEA's [funding guidelines for 2015](#) are now available online. The first application deadline is February 19, 2015.

Connect with Congress During Recess



[KP Tripati](#), Flickr Creative Commons

With lawmakers at home in their districts at the end of the year, take the opportunity to educate them about the role and value of the arts in America—and your organization in your community.

Do you have a new lawmaker? As soon as possible, make an introduction and share how your arts organization is making an impact where you live. PAA's [advocacy tips and tools](#) can help you conduct meetings and phone calls with your lawmakers. Find their local contact information, committee assignments, and social media pages in our legislator [directory](#).

Save the Date: Arts Advocacy Day 2015



PAA is a national co-sponsor for [Arts Advocacy Day 2015](#) to be held March 23-24 in Washington, DC. The annual event, organized by Americans for the Arts, brings together hundreds of arts and cultural advocates from around the nation to speak up for the arts on Capitol Hill. Registration is currently open online.

Upcoming Events: PAA in Austin



[Jim Nix](#), Flickr Creative Commons

PAA is hitting the road in 2015!

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 NALAC 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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