Happy New Year from the Performing Arts Alliance!

We hope that you and your families had an enjoyable holiday season. We look forward to serving you this year as your advocates for the performing arts on Capitol Hill.

January 2014 Advocacy Report

Charitable Giving

Private contributions from individual donors are a key source of support for nonprofits and social services. As such, PAA has been active with other nonprofit stakeholders in the protection of tax incentives for contributions made to charitable organizations. The tax provision allowing donors ages 70 ½+ to make tax-free contributions from IRAs—up to $100,000—expired at the end of 2013. This issue was not expected to see action consideration of retroactively reinstating the IRA rollover may not take place before mid-2014.

We also continue to advocate for the protection of broader charitable giving incentives, as Congress contemplates potential caps or limits on deductibility. On November 20, PAA participated in the Charitable Giving Coalition’s Protect Giving Day which brought over 200 advocates from multiple
from Congress due to the large number of policy items on the table at the end of the year. Although Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced the Public Good IRA Rollover Act of 2013 (S.1772) in November,

You can Take Action on charitable giving here.

### Arts Education

This past year saw much activity around the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as No Child Left Behind). Both the House and Senate introduced their own versions of the education law this summer: the “Strengthening America’s Schools Act” from the Senate and the “Student Success Act” from the House (See our July 2013 Arts Education Update report).

Looking ahead in 2014: How will federal appropriations affect arts education programs? PAA is keeping an eye on budget negotiations and the status of arts education programs at the Department of Education (DoE).

The President’s FY14 budget would eliminate the Arts in Education (AIE) program as a stand-alone program within the DoE, mixing it into the “Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education” program fund with other disciplines. The Senate’s proposed FY14 budget for the DoE recommends the AIE program remain as a stand-alone funded at $27 million, and the House proposes eliminating it.

PAA continues to advocate for the AIE program to remain a stand-alone program within the DoE funded at $30 million.

You can Take Action on arts education here.
Since this summer, PAA has had multiple opportunities to speak to members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about the importance of protecting wireless technology used in the performing arts. We know how essential it is to have interference-free microphones and backstage communications systems to produce successful shows, and we took that message to policymakers on your behalf. After our Capitol Hill Forum in July, PAA worked with representatives from the NFL, the NCAA, and leaders of religious communities to distribute to members of the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) committee a letter addressed to acting FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn. E&C committee members signed the letter in support of retaining the two safe haven channels in the spectrum reserved for wireless microphones.

We have also been meeting with leadership in the offices of FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and other FCC commissioners to urge policymakers to consider the performing arts community when moving forward with spectrum auctions.

In early December, Chairman Wheeler announced that the spectrum incentive auctions will begin mid-2015, stating that this timeline will allow for thorough testing of the auction’s operating system. Over the next year, PAA will follow the developments of the spectrum auction and keep you informed of opportunities for action.

You can Take Action on performing arts wireless technology here.

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This year, the NEA has awarded grants in support of performing arts organizations of all sizes and disciplines to help them provide education programs, create new works, and build partnerships.

help them make meaningful connections between their art, artists, and their communities.

In 2014, PAA will monitor the appropriations process for the...
This breadth of support is an example of the importance of the NEA and why federal investment in the arts is essential.

PAA advocates for federal appropriations for the NEA so that it can continue supporting arts organizations and

Photo Credit: Paul B. Goode

Stay Connected!

For more information about PAA's advocacy issues, visit us online at theperformingartsalliance.org, follow us on Twitter (@PAAlliance), or like our Facebook page.