PerformingArtsAlliance
the Coalition of Performing Arts Advocates

Founding Members:

Association of Performing Arts Presenters | Dance/USA League of American Orchestras | OPERA America | Theatre Communications Group

Associate Members:

Alternate ROOTS | American Composers Forum | Chamber Music America | Chorus America | Fractured Atlas | National Alliance for Musical Theatre | National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures | National Performance Network | Network of Ensemble Theaters | New Music USA

PAA Advocacy Report: July 2014

NEA FY15 Budget Victory in the House!

Last week, we alerted you that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies recommended an $8 million cut ($138 million) to the NEA for FY15. Thanks to your advocacy efforts, on July 15, the full House Appropriations Committee restored the NEA's FY15 budget to $146 million!

This appropriation represents level funding at the current FY14 amount and is the same as the President's FY15 request for the agency. While restoration to $146 million is a victory, PAA continues to advocate for $155 million for the NEA.

You spoke up for the arts and your voices were heard! The bill now moves to the full House for approval. Stay tuned for updates on the rest of the appropriations process and opportunities for action.

New July Deadline for Art Works Grants

NEA Art Works Grant applications are due next week on July 24, earlier than in previous years.

Art Works grants are project-based and awards range from $10,000 to $100,000. Complete guidelines are here on the NEA's website.

Tomorrow's House Vote on the IRA Rollover

Tomorrow, July 17, the full House of Representatives is set to vote on legislation (H.R. 4719) that would **reinstate and make permanent the IRA charitable rollover.** The IRA rollover is being considered along with four additional expired charitable provisions important to the non-profit sector.

The IRA rollover allows donors ages 70½ and over to make tax-free contributions of up to $100,000 directly from their IRAs. This important provision expired at the end of 2013, greatly reducing the incentive for individuals to support nonprofit arts organizations. Click here to learn more.

Take action today and urge your representatives to support this legislation!

Follow-Up on the FCC's May 15 Open Meeting

Wireless Microphones

Previously, we told you about the FCC's Open Meeting where rules were adopted for expanding Part 74 license eligibility and the upcoming spectrum incentive auction was discussed. Additional details have emerged about how these rules will affect performing arts wireless technology:

- Part 74 licensing expands to performing arts venues and sound companies routinely using 50+ devices per event.
- There will be no channels reserved exclusively for wireless microphones.
- In the short-term, the FCC will allow wireless microphones to operate co-channel and on channels adjacent to TV stations.
- In the next five years, wireless microphones will likely have to move to a new band of spectrum after the auction is complete and the broadcast spectrum is repacked.

Visit the White Space Issue Center for updates on this matter.

Net Neutrality

The FCC's initial public comment period on its proposed Open Internet Rules closed on July 15. PAA signed on to comments expressing that "the FCC must safeguard an open and accessible Internet for many reasons, including our sector's ability to inspire new generations of cultural ambassadors, creators, and innovators."

PAA joins national arts and culture advocates in asking the FCC to maintain the internet as a level playing field. Click here to read the comments, and stay up to date via the Net Neutrality Issue Center.

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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