



Association of Performing Arts Presenters
Dance/USA | League of American Orchestras
OPERA America | Theatre Communications Group
Alternate ROOTS | American Composers Forum
Chamber Music America | Chorus America
Fractured Altas | National Alliance for Musical Theatre
National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
National Performance Network
Network of Ensemble Theaters | New Music USA

Advocacy Report

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About Us

- The Performing Arts Alliance is a national network of more than 33,000 organizational and individual members comprising the professional, nonprofit performing arts and presenting fields.

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May 2014 Advocacy Report

NEA Chair Nomination Advances in Senate



On May 14, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved the nomination of Dr. Jane Chu as the next chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. The committee voted to move her nomination to the full Senate for a final confirmation vote. Prior to the Committee's vote, PAA sent a [letter](#) to HELP committee chair Sen. Harkin and ranking member Sen. Alexander encouraging floor consideration of the nomination as soon as possible, offering to be a resource during the process if needed.

The new chair will take office in the NEA's new location. In early May, the agency moved from its location at the Old Post Office Building to its new offices at Constitution Center in Southwest DC. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities have moved to Constitution Center as well.

IRA



Legislation Proposed in the House



The EXPIRE Act—which proposed to reinstate the IRA rollover among many other expired tax provisions—stalled in the full Senate on May 15 when it did not receive enough votes to overcome a filibuster. Meanwhile, in the House, Reps. Aaron Schock (R-IL 18th) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR 3rd) introduced H.R. 4619 on May 8 which would make this tax provision permanent.

We know it's critical for nonprofit arts organizations to provide many charitable giving opportunities for individual donors to support their vital programs and services.

PAA continues to advocate for the reinstatement and permanent status of the IRA rollover. We signed on to an [open letter](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee from Independent Sector asking them to renew and make permanent the provision and asking committee members to co-sponsor H.R. 4619.

Tell your members of Congress how important it is that individual donors be able to support your organization's work. Share your story [here](#) and take action to reinstate the IRA rollover.

FCC Proposes New Net Neutrality Rules



The FCC launched a rulemaking on new open Internet/net neutrality at an Open Meeting on May 15. The agency must re-write its 2010 net neutrality rules since a DC Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the anti-blocking and anti-discrimination parts of the rules in January.

The current rulemaking asks “What is the right public policy to ensure that the Internet remains open?” The rules propose to:

- Enhance existing transparency rules about ISP practices
- Define the legal standard of “commercially reasonable” and create rules to enforce it
- Enforce effective rules to protect innovators, startups, and consumers

PAA is in support of an open Internet that preserves a level playing field for all users to educate, express themselves, and innovate. The FCC is accepting public comments on the rulemaking until July 15, and reply comments until September

15. The agency has compiled a [Fact Sheet](#) about the proposed rulemaking available on its website.

Visit the [Net Neutrality Issue Center](#) on the PAA website for a timeline of recent activity on this issue.

FCC Expands Part 74 License Eligibility



At the same Open Meeting, the FCC adopted rules expanding Part 74 license eligibility to include sound companies and venues regularly using at least 50 wireless microphones. The rules are intended to ensure interference protection and high quality sound for large events.

After the auction, the Commission anticipates there will be one channel in each area which would be available for shared use by wireless microphones and TV white space devices. PAA continues to advocate for two safe-haven channels of spectrum for wireless microphones to protect against interference, as well as eligibility for performing arts venues using at least 25 microphones to obtain a license from the FCC. Click [here](#) to read the ex parte letter PAA sent to the FCC on May 7. Stay tuned for more details after the rules are published.

Policy Changes Ease Travel with Instruments



Many musicians perform and travel with legally-crafted instruments that contain small amounts of African elephant ivory and other protected species. Until recently, long-standing but never-enforced regulations regarding transport of instruments containing protected species were unknown to the performing arts field. In recent months, the Administration's ban on African elephant ivory has brought this policy to the forefront for countless musicians.

Last week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced revisions to its February 2014 Director's Order on international travel with musical instruments containing African elephant ivory. The original order banned entry into the U.S. with

instruments purchased after February 26, 1976 containing this material. Last week's revision expands the allowable purchase date to February 25, 2014, allowing travel so long as the musical instruments were legally manufactured, and are accompanied by required permits. While the revision is helpful, huge policy challenges still remain related to travel and future sales of musical instruments.

The League of American Orchestras, a PAA founding member organization, has compiled resources and background information on this policy issue. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Your Voice Matters

Thank you for your ongoing advocacy for federal policies in support of the performing arts. Stay connected to PAA for opportunities to take action and for news and progress on our advocacy issues. Visit us online at theperformingartsalliance.org, follow us on [Twitter](#) (@PAAlliance), or like our Facebook [page](#).