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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 Travels to Austin



On Thursday, April 16, 2015, PAA held its Arts and Advocacy Community Conversation at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, TX. The event was sponsored in part by the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division and held in conjunction with PAA's spring Board of Directors meeting. PAA member organizations Ballet Austin and National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures co-hosted the conversation.

Over 75 members of the Austin and San Antonio performing arts communities participated in roundtable discussions on arts funding; audience development and community engagement; local casemaking and advocacy; diversity, inclusion, and equity; and artists' resources. During the discussions, participants shared stories, ideas, and experiences about:

- involvement in local, state, and federal arts advocacy
- risk-taking in art making
- public support for the arts including Austin's Hotel Occupancy Tax
- marketing art to a diverse millennial population

- building relationships with local elected officials
- the impact of Austin's population boom on artists' resources
- network-building among arts organizations

PAA thanks all who were able to join us and those who helped make this event possible. We look forward to future opportunities to learn from performing artists and arts organizations of other communities about the roles they're playing in their communities and the issues impacting their work.

Arts Advocacy Day 2015 Recap

Arts Advocacy Day 2015, organized by Americans for the Arts (AFTA), was held March 23-24, 2015 in Washington, DC. PAA was a proud national co-sponsor of this year's event. The gathering drew over 500 arts advocates from 48 states to Capitol Hill to speak up for the arts in our nation. Advocates participated in in-depth training and briefing sessions on key federal policy areas in the arts and received helpful tips on how to conduct meetings with legislators and their staff.



Highlights of the event include the 28th annual Nancy Hanks Lecture delivered by activist and TV producer Norman Lear, and the Congressional Arts Kick-Off Breakfast where a number of lawmakers delivered rousing speeches and Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) received AFTA's Congressional Arts Leadership Award.

For videos, photos, and more highlights, visit AFTA's [Arts Advocacy Day 2015 Wrap-Up page](#).

PAA Submits Testimony to House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee



In March, PAA submitted written testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. This subcommittee makes recommendations for the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) budget.

PAA's testimony highlighted the value of the NEA's support for the performing arts in America and included specific examples of PAA member organizations' programs and services that have received recent grant support from the agency. Click [here](#) to read PAA's testimony.

Arts Education in Senate ESEA Bill



Earlier this month, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee considered the *Every Child Achieves Act of 2015*, legislation that would update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, our nation's education law. Arts education was at stake in the draft, and we alerted you to speak up on several key points in the legislation. You sent scores of letters to members of the HELP committee asking them to keep the arts as an essential part of public education.

The HELP committee approved the legislation which maintains the arts in its definition of "core academic subjects." The bill also continues to authorize the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program which funds afterschool and summertime learning programs that include the arts, and it includes language to support activities like the Arts in Education program at the Department of Education. This program provides grants for educator professional development in the arts and model arts education programs that serve students in low-income schools. It is unclear at this time where the bill stands on state reporting of student access to arts education. The arts community asks for this transparency to hold schools accountable for offering all students arts education.

The next step for the bill is to go to the full Senate for consideration. PAA will keep you informed of its progress and alert you of opportunities to take action. You can [learn more about arts education advocacy](#) in the PAA 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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