



Dear APAP Members and Friends,

In light of [recent news](#), a number of you have contacted us with your concerns about the future of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and arts funding in the U.S.

We at APAP are monitoring the situation closely and want to share with you the following information.

**What you should know:**

- Though news outlets are reporting on the President's budget blueprint, his actual budget is expected to be released by April, at which time he will put forth his funding recommendations for the NEA.
- The President's budget request is one part of the appropriations process. The House and Senate will each soon begin work on their own appropriations bills and must come to an agreement on a final bill before submitting it to the President to sign into law.
- The NEA provides nationwide grants that impact every congressional district, and the NEA also fuels the national funding structure that gives critical support for regional arts organizations, state arts agencies and local arts agencies.
- There has been strong bipartisan support for the NEA for many years in both the House and the Senate.

**What you can do:**

1. [Contact your elected officials](#) and their staff and communicate the value the arts. Share specific stories with them about how the work you do impacts your local community.
2. Strongly encourage your colleagues, board members, supporters and audience members to do the same.
3. Review these [talking points from the Performing Arts Alliance](#) (PAA) to help you build your messages. PAA is APAP's advocacy partner.
4. If you have questions or are unclear about what a 501(c)(3) can do to speak up about arts issues, please see these "[Advocacy 101](#)" tips.
5. Finally, if you can, schedule in-person meetings with your elected officials when they are in their local district offices. Introduce them to your work and ask for their support for the arts.

If you feel strongly about the power and impact of the arts in this country and your community, **now is the time to act.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We encourage you to share this message.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario Garcia Durham", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mario Garcia Durham  
President and CEO, APAP