Dear APAP Members,

On Tuesday, the President released his FY18 detailed budget, which proposes that the National Endowment for the Arts and other cultural agencies and programs be eliminated.

As the Congress funds the budget, NOW is the time to ACT on behalf of the arts. Our country and our communities depend on us as arts leaders and advocates.

You recently received an email alert from APAP’s advocacy partner, Performing Arts Alliance. Let me take a moment to reiterate some very important information as well as steps you can take.

**What you should know about the budget:**
- Donald Trump’s budget proposes the elimination of these agencies: the National Endowment of the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (Minimal funding will be for “close-out” processes.)

- The budget includes the elimination of Arts Education programs: Assistance for Arts Education, Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. (Department of Education)

- The budget also includes significant cuts to Educational and Cultural Exchange. (Department of State)

**Most importantly, NOW is the time to ACT as Congress is about to start its budget appropriations meetings.**

**What you can do:**

1. Contact your elected officials via phone, email and social media. Ask them to #SAVEtheNEA, as well as preserve full funding of other arts and cultural agencies and programs.

2. Tell them how important the arts are for revitalizing communities, engaging students in education, building local economies, and enriching everyday life. (See examples from the NEA [here](#).)
3. Meet in person when your representatives are at home for recess, and don't underestimate the important role congressional staff play in making policy recommendations.

4. Strongly encourage your colleagues and board members to do the same. (Forward this email to them.)

5. Review these talking points from the Performing Arts Alliance (PAA) and these Advocacy 101 tips.

6. Join our partners at Americans for the Arts’ Arts Action Fund for more tips and alerts.

7. Inform your audiences of the proposed elimination of funding for arts and cultural agencies and programs through email, stage announcements, program inserts and social media! (See samples below.)

Every action we take will have an impact and make a difference.

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

Sincerely,

Mario Garcia Durham
President and CEO, APAP

Sample Tweet to send to your Congressional representatives: (Find Twitter handles here.)
Pres Trump's proposed budget calls for an elimination of @NEAarts. We need your help to #SAVEtheNEA! #ArtsAdvocacy

Sample Stage Announcement:
Thank you all for coming to this performance. We appreciate your support. You may not be aware of the fact the president’s current budget includes complete elimination for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. If you care about arts education and the future of arts and culture in our country, please contact your representatives and elected officials to express your strong support for the Arts and Humanities and their importance in all our lives.