Dear APAP Members and Friends,

President Trump's budget calls to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts completely. Now is the time to make our unified voices heard and advocate on behalf of the arts. We know you feel strongly about the power and impact of the arts in our country and in our communities.

**What you should know:**

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 via phone, email, letters and even social media, 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. Call the White House and state your opposition to the elimination of the NEA: 202-456-1111.

3. Strongly encourage your colleagues, board members, supporters and audience members to do the same.

4. Review these talking points from the Performing Arts Alliance (PAA) to help you build your messages. PAA is APAP's advocacy partner.

5. If you have questions or are unclear about what a 501(c)(3) nonprofit can do to speak up about arts issues, please see these "Advocacy 101" tips.

6. 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.
7. Inform your audiences, through a stage announcement and/or a program insert, of the possible elimination of funding 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.

- **Sample Statement**: 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.

*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