



DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

January 20, 2022



The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, U.S. House Committee
on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on
Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515



The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, U.S. House
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on
Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice
Chairman Shelby,



I write to convey the urgency of passing a Fiscal Year (FY) 2022
appropriations bill that funds the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the
National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) at \$201 million each and the
Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) at \$565 million. These funding levels
were passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2021.



Many union creative professionals earn their living working on nonprofit
productions and in performances that receive funding from the NEA, NEH, and
CPB. As such, passing a government spending bill with federal arts funding at the
above stated levels is a priority for the Department for Professional Employees,
AFL-CIO (DPE) and our 12 affiliate unions that represent professionals working in
the arts, entertainment, and media industries.



Funding the NEA and NEH at \$201 million and CPB at \$565 million means
that these agencies can reach more Americans with their vital missions. Through
grants, seed money, and technical support, the NEA, NEH, and CPB ensure that
Americans of all means, geographies, and abilities have access to artistic and
educational content. NEA, NEH, and CPB-funded programs help veterans heal
from the invisible scars of war, inspire the next generation of creators and
innovators, and deliver content that unites people across small towns and big cities.
In addition, the nonprofit arts sector is a proving ground where people wanting to
work in the commercial parts of the arts, entertainment, and media industries can
establish their careers.



Increased NEA, NEH, and CPB funding will also allow the agencies to help
support more jobs for more people in every congressional district. That is because

815 16th Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006

(202) 638-0320 • www.dpeaflcio.org

the nonprofit arts community helps power a sector that supports over five million jobs, including, as previously noted, jobs for many of our members. These funding levels are also an important step toward restoring the NEA to an inflation-adjusted full funding level of \$331 million, or \$1 per capita.

This is a critical moment for helping ensure that creative professionals can get back to work in the wake of the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act and American Rescue Plan helped creative professionals get through the worst of the pandemic, and allowed them to start to get back on stage and return to sets, but the reality is that industry employment remains below pre-pandemic levels. Increased NEA, NEH, and CPB funding will help ensure that professionals working in the arts and public media can fully recover from the pandemic.

Passing an FY 2022 appropriations bill with increased funding for the NEA, NEH, and CPB will also help the economy as a whole continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Arts audiences spend an estimated \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission, on lodging, restaurants, clothing, transportation, and other goods and services - the type of establishments that need the draw of more customers to their doorsteps.

In sum, increased funding for the NEA, NEH, and CPB is an investment that helps union creative professionals earn a living, while enriching the lives of everyday Americans and bolstering local economies. It is for this reason that I ask you to pass an FY22 appropriations bill that provides the NEA and NEH with \$201 million in funding and the CPB with \$565 million in funding.

If you have any questions, please contact DPE Assistant to the President/Legislative Director Michael Wasser at mwasser@dpeaflcio.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JDorning", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Jennifer Dorning, President

cc: The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable David Joyce
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Roy Blunt