

DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

June 6, 2022



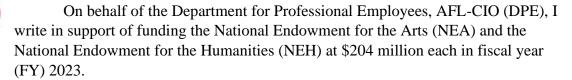


The Honorable Chellie Pingree Chairwoman U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies 2007 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce Ranking Member U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies 2007 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

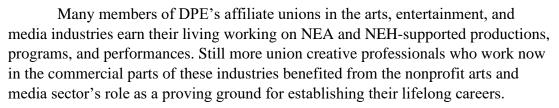


Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

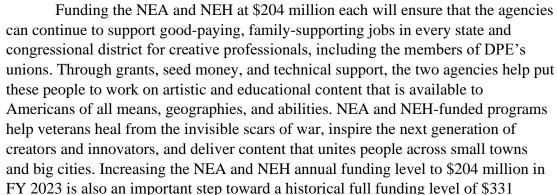
















million, or \$1 per capita.

Additional NEA and NEH funding will help creative professionals quickly return to work safely following the COVID-19 pandemic's economic devastation. Creative professionals were among the first to lose their jobs at the pandemic's outset, and they have been among the last to return to their jobs.





Increased funding for the NEA and NEH is also good for local communities and the small businesses that are still recovering from the pandemic. Pre-pandemic research shows that 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.

In addition, DPE believes the NEA and NEH are critical to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts, entertainment, and media industries. In February 2021, DPE and our affiliate unions in these industries released a "Policy Agenda for Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Arts, Entertainment, and Media Industries," which contains policy solutions aimed at creating diverse talent pipelines and incentivizing diversity in hiring. Equity and inclusion are essential, not only as a matter of doing what is right, but also for the long-term sustainability of the creative sector.

In sum, the NEA and NEH are critical agencies for working people and local economies. Their work delivers a high return on investment and cannot be replaced by the private sector. I urge the Subcommittee to fund the NEA and NEH at \$204 million and help sustain America's continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorning, President