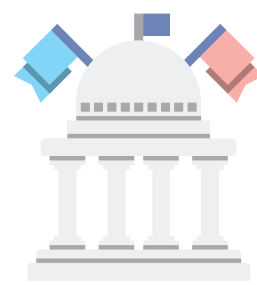




Summer 2021 Legislative Update



As Congress reaches its mid-year summer recess, below is a summary of the current legislative status of the bills and policies that Americans for the Arts and advocates across the country have been advocating throughout the year. The issue briefs for this legislative portfolio is online [here](#).

These advances in arts policy have been made possible by an active and bipartisan Congressional Arts Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus, a dedicated coalition of pro-arts organizations, and motivated grassroots advocacy leaders in every state.

Arts & Cultural Agency Funding

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Following the Biden administration's budget proposal, the House voted to provide \$201 mil. to NEA for FY 2022 — a \$33.5 mil. increase above FY 2021 levels. The House also provided \$201 mil. to NEH, matching funding levels with NEA.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The House voted to provide \$282 mil. to IMLS — a \$25 mil. increase above FY 2021 levels and \$17 mil. above the President's budget request.

Arts Education

Arts Education for All Bill

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) will introduce this bill later this year.

Support for the Arts through U.S. Dept. of Education Funding

The House Appropriations Committee recommended \$33 mil. for Arts in Education — \$2.5 mil. more than the FY 2021 level and the FY 2022 budget request. This program provides competitive grants to support professional development and the development of instructional materials and programming that integrate the arts into the curricula.

Arts & Transit

Saving Transit Arts Resources (STAR) Act

Reintroduced by Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) in April 2021, the STAR Act passed the House as a provision within the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act in July 2021. The Senate infrastructure and transportation bill did not include the provision.

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The Creative Economy

Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA)

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM) introduced this bill in August 2021. It's a proposal to support a new \$300 mil. creative workforce grant program through the U.S. Dept. of Labor, in coordination with the NEA.

CREATE Act

The Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy (CREATE) Act is being prepared by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) for reintroduction in both the House and Senate.

PLACE Act

The Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy (PLACE) Act is being prepared by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) for reintroduction in both the House and Senate.

Arts & Recovery

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

ARPA was signed into law in March 2021. The bill provided arts venues and the National Endowment of the Arts over \$17 bil. in relief funds to arts agencies, companies, and organizations. Additional support for the arts and arts education can come through state and local governments and school districts.

WORK NOW Act

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) reintroduced this bill in March 2021, along with 13 co-sponsors. It provides \$50 bil. in support for nonprofits, including arts organizations.

Tax Policy & Charitable Giving

Universal Giving and Pandemic Response Act

Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) reintroduced this bill in March 2021, along with 14 co-sponsors, and it was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Legacy IRA Act

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) reintroduced this bill in February 2021, along with 6 co-sponsors, and it was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Arts & Juvenile Justice Programs

Title V Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program

The House Commerce, Justice, and Science report contained language specifically encouraging the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to establish a demonstration program focused on providing competitive grants to partnerships between arts organizations and juvenile justice systems.

Arts & Member Directed Spending

Member Directed Spending - Earmarks

Out of 3,012 member-directed spending requests submitted for FY 2022, members of Congress proposed funding 142 arts and culture-related projects, providing over \$203 million to local arts organizations. The House approved 90% of these expenditures in passing the seven FY 2022 appropriations bills. The Senate will consider their earmark projects later this fall.

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