Dear APAP Members and Friends,

On Monday, the President released his FY19 budget proposal. In it, as many news sources report, he calls for the total elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and other U.S. cultural agencies and programs.

APAP is working together with the Performing Arts Alliance and other industry advocacy partners to provide you the following information and action items.

What you should know:

- Like the FY18 proposal, several agencies and programs critical to the arts community are targeted for elimination, including the NEA, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and several programs at the U.S. Department of Education.

- The NEA provides funding that impacts every congressional district and fuels a national arts structure that supports regional arts organizations, and state and local arts agencies. To date in FY18, the NEA has issued 1,134 grants totaling $26.68 million to organizations and individuals across the U.S.

- The President's budget proposal is just the first step in the FY19 funding process, and Congress will make spending decisions in the months ahead. There are many opportunities to engage with policy makers.

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. Review these talking points from the Performing Arts Alliance (PAA) to help you build your messages. PAA is APAP’s advocacy partner. If you have questions or are unclear about what a 501(c)(3) can do to speak up about arts issues, please see these "Advocacy 101" tips.

3. Schedule in-person meetings with your elected officials when they are at home for recess. Introduce them to your work and ask for their support for the arts. Don't underestimate the important role congressional staff play in making policy recommendations.

4. Join fellow arts advocates by registering for Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC on March 12-13 to speak up for the arts!

5. Strongly encourage your colleagues, board members, supporters and audience members to do the same.
Last year, your emails, phone calls, and interactions with policy makers helped to save the NEA. Your action makes a difference!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We will continue to keep you informed and encourage you to share this message.

Sincerely,

Mario Garcia Durham
President and CEO, APAP