



vermont arts council
working for a creative state



Update

Greetings!

National Update

The U.S. Congress builds the federal budget. Constructing the budget results in an annual bill to support the federal government. Where the nation's arts are concerned, the first steps have been taken up in a subcommittee of the U.S. House Interior Appropriations Committee. Last week, that subcommittee proposed a budget of \$145M for both the National Endowment for the Arts and for the National Endowment for the Humanities. This proposed budget figure represents a \$5M cut for each agency; it also represents dismissal of the president's budget, which proposes to phase out a number of the nation's cultural institutions.

Bob Lynch, president of Americans for the Arts, responded to last week's news with [this statement](#).

Add your voice to the discussion. If you are a member of the Americans for the Arts political action committee (PAC), send a pre-composed message via the Arts Action Fund [webpage](#). If you are not a member, you can send a message via the Arts Council's [Action Center](#). Select the arrow next to '5 advocacy campaigns,' then choose Save the NEA.

We are watching a series of developments where support for the arts and culture are concerned (for example, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Institute for Museum and Library Services). To date, proposed figures for most cultural agencies and arts education line items are trending positively.

Thank you to all who maintain contact with our national representatives. It is always important to collectively and individually express our will about the arts and so many issues.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar! On Wednesday and Thursday, November 8 and 9, the Vermont Creative Network will convene for a statewide Summit at the State House in Montpelier. Key focus will be on policy initiatives to advance the economic impact of the state's large creative sector.

What You Can Do This Summer

Local is the place to start. If you are not acquainted with your local representative, make a summer goal to reach out to him or her. The most effective advocacy efforts are face-to-face: stories supported by clear data. Alternatively, write a card thanking your legislators for their work. Let them know that you care about the arts, culture, and creativity. Find your legislator on the Council's [Action Center](#) (upper right hand box) or on the general assembly [website](#). Contact [Zon Eastes](#) for ideas and contacts in your area.

Be in touch. Every voice makes a difference!

All best--



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