

Senator Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts would be a devastating blow to the arts in America.

For more than 50 years, the NEA has expanded access to the arts for all Americans, awarding grants in every Congressional district throughout all 50 states and U.S. Territories. The agency is an economic powerhouse, generating more than \$600 million annually in additional matching funds. With only a \$148 million annual budget, NEA investments in the arts contribute to:

- **4.8 million** jobs in Arts and Culture industries, yielding a **\$26 billion** trade surplus for the country
- A **\$730 billion** arts and culture economic industry – which is larger than the Construction, Transportation and Travel & Tourism industries
- An arts and culture industry which generates **\$22.3 billion** in federal, state and local government revenue

The NEA also has an exemplary partnership with the states, with **40 percent** of program funds distributed through state arts agencies. In Ohio, all of that money is used for Ohio Arts Council grant making – the loss would be substantial for Ohio communities.

Locally, the NEA is of considerable importance. In the last decade, the NEA granted **\$3.9 million** to Northeast Ohio organizations, including The Cleveland Orchestra, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Public Theatre, Inc., SPACES Gallery, DANCE Cleveland, Apollo's Fire, Cleveland International Film Festival, Inc., Cuyahoga County Community College Foundation, L.A.N.D. Studio, Inc. and Cleveland Play House.

Please stand up for the National Endowment for the Arts and vote against all efforts to eliminate it.

Name:

Address:

Phone: