

Resolution N° 12

July 31, 2024

Subject: *Support for Continued Funding of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities*

NEA and NEH Resolution

Whereas, The National Endowment for the Arts (“NEA”) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (“NEH”) are crucial federal agencies dedicated to promoting and funding the arts and humanities across the United States, supporting a broad range of programs that benefit artists, educators, cultural institutions, and the public at large; and

Whereas, Recent legislative developments have seen significant bipartisan support for these agencies, as evidenced by the defeat of proposed amendments aimed at making deeper cuts to their budgets, and the passage of the Interior bill with a recommendation of \$203,895,000 for the NEA and NEH; and

Whereas, The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended \$209 million each for the NEA and NEH, reflecting a slight increase from current funding levels and demonstrating a commitment to sustaining and enhancing support for these vital programs; and

Whereas, Advocacy and communication with legislators are crucial during this period of budgetary review, especially as the Senate prepares to consider its own Interior bill and adjourns for an extended recess starting August 3, 2024; and

Whereas, Protecting and increasing funding for the NEA and NEH is essential to ensuring continued support for arts and humanities programs, including regional orchestras, which are integral to cultural development, education, and community engagement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") expresses its strong support for the continued and robust funding of the National Endowment for the Arts ("NEA") and the National Endowment for the Humanities ("NEH"); and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA urges all members, affiliated orchestras, and local unions to actively engage in advocacy efforts to support the NEA and NEH, including participating in e-campaigns, contacting Senators, and attending meetings with officials during the August recess to emphasize the importance of these agencies to our communities and livelihoods; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA expresses its gratitude towards Alfonso Pollard, Legislative-Political Director and Director of Diversity for the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM"), for his tireless work in support of all musicians through his lobbying efforts on behalf of this legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA acknowledges and thanks the bipartisan efforts of Interior Subcommittee Chair Mike Simpson and Ranking Member Chellie Pingree for their support of the NEA and NEH, and commends the collective efforts to defeat damaging funding cuts; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA remains committed to defending the rights and interests of professional musicians and cultural workers, and will continue to advocate for policies that support fair compensation, job security, and the advancement of the arts and humanities; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA will encourage widespread participation in advocacy activities and reinforce the value of the arts in enriching our communities and supporting our members.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board