

RESOLUTION DATED: April 18, 2017

**Resolution of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
Pertaining to Arts & Culture Funding for the FY 2018 Federal Appropriations**

WHEREAS, the arts, culture, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life, economic prosperity and state identity of Coloradoans, and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, cultural, humanities and museum programs and activities in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA is a critical source of funding for Colorado nonprofit arts organizations, individuals and Creative Districts; and

WHEREAS, as business leaders who support the arts and creative industries in the State of Colorado, we are very concerned about the potential loss of NEA funds to our state. Arts and culture are a key economic driver, with the creative industries ranked as the fifth largest employment sector in Colorado. Creative jobs in our state numbered 139,096 in 2015 and accounted for \$7.2 billion in earnings; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) and its board know that investing in the arts makes smart economic sense. Arts and cultural organizations have a direct financial impact. Arts, cultural and scientific organizations generated \$1.8 Billion in economic activity, \$512.8 Million in economic impact, and 10,731 jobs in the Denver Metro area alone in 2015, according to CBCA's biennial Economic Activity Study of Metro Denver Culture compiled using data from all nonprofit organizations that received funds through the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) within a seven-county region. In 2016, the NEA invested more than \$1.2 million dollars in organizations from the SCFD district; and

WHEREAS, arts and culture are a strongly held value of our residents, as evidenced by Colorado's #1 ranking in the country for the percentage of adults who perform or create artwork; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the NEA would have dire consequences for every state, including Colorado. Rural areas, low-income communities and schools would suffer disproportionately from reductions in government arts funding. Last year, NEA funding distributed through Colorado Creative Industries through the NEA/CCI Partnership Agreement (the required state match) resulted in \$3,148,600 in direct grants to arts organizations in Colorado, supporting 237 creative nonprofits, creative districts, individuals and businesses, of which 44% of the awards went to rural and small communities across the state, and approximately 38% of the funds supplemented arts education programs in low income areas; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties with \$795 million annually in *local government* funding, \$360 million in *state government* funding to the arts, \$148 million each in *federal government* funding for the NEA and NEH and \$31.3 million for museums within IMLS, and \$17.23 billion in *private giving* to the arts, culture and humanities; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding leverages on average more than nine times in matching funds from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individual in communities across the U.S. to support the highest quality cultural programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country, the NEAH, NEH, IMLS support programs, such as the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD), which enhances community development, promotes cultural planning, stimulates business development, spurs urban renewal, attracts new businesses, draws significant cultural tourism dollars, and improves the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) through their "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" calculates the arts and culture sector's contributions to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) at 4.2 percent or \$730 billion; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 50-plus years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 4,500 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for the arts ensures the arts remain equitable and for all people. NEA, NEH, and IMLS (including OMS) funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education, museums, libraries, and other cultural events regardless of family income.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLORADO BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS AS FOLLOWS:

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts declares its support of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to support these agencies in the FY 2018 federal appropriations bills at least \$155 million each for the NEA and NEH, and \$38.6 million for museums within the IMLS to serve arts organizations of all sizes in communities across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts calls on the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in Colorado and America's cities.

Introduced and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, the 18th day of April, 2017



Chair

