



White House Budget Proposes Defunding of Cultural Agencies Including the National Endowment for the Arts

AATA

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In an announcement made earlier today, the White House released its preliminary [proposed budget for FY2018](#). This budget blueprint for discretionary spending includes calls for the elimination of four independent cultural agencies — the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

[According to the Washington Post](#), the NEA faces elimination of its \$148 million budget, which would directly affect NEA-supported art therapy programs and initiatives. Such programs include the [NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership](#), which established the creative arts therapy program [featured](#) by *National Geographic* at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Walter Reed, and [Creative Forces](#), an expansion of creative arts therapies programs for veterans at ten additional clinical sites.

Because defunding the NEA will directly impact clients who receive art therapy services, the AATA encourages members and *Art Therapy Today* readers to take one or more of the actions listed below to help advocate for the arts in the United States.

- Urge your elected representative to oppose this attempt to cut funding by taking a few minutes to [send them a customizable message](#) via the Arts Action Fund.
- Connect with relevant legislators and federal agencies through civic engagement platforms, such as [POPVOX](#), that can help streamline the advocacy process by aggregating, directing and delivering individuals' stories and opinions. You can write to your lawmakers in support or opposition of the President's budget blueprint directly on [POPVOX](#).
- Because phone calls and letters have the highest impact, please call your representatives directly urging them to carefully consider the consequences of adopting the budget proposals.
- Participate in [Arts Advocacy Day](#) for the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and discuss the essential role of the arts in the country.

AATA will continue to post updates to our [Facebook page](#) providing news and calls to action. Individuals can engage on social media using [#SaveTheNEA](#) to voice opposition to the proposed budget and to foster support for the NEA.

