

**DAS WILLIAMS**

First District, Vice Chair

**JANET WOLF**

Second District

**JOAN HARTMANN**

Third District, Chair

**PETER ADAM**

Fourth District

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**

Fifth District

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

County Administration Building  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Telephone: (805) 568-2190  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I have sent the accompanying letters to Chairman Calvert and Ranking Minority Member McCollum of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, advocating the County of Santa Barbara's support for funding for the National Endowment (NEA) of the Arts in the FY 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The County believes that the role of arts and culture in the community can be a force in developing economic vitality. Recent studies of arts-grant funding initiatives at the national and State level demonstrate the vital impact arts and culture have on the economy and on civic engagement, and a study by the Center for Cultural Innovation ranked Santa Barbara 9th out of 367 municipalities across the nation in professional artists per capita. One of the major efforts of the County's Office of Arts and Culture is to support and educate local cultural practitioners, helping them continue to make contributions to all residents' quality of life. These art organizations provide many direct economic contributions, including employment and health care benefits, and also address social needs. As an example, the Office of Arts and Culture supports programs that engage veterans and their families in arts programs, and arts in prison programs that are aimed to reduce recidivism.

NEA funding is vital to these local efforts. Please urge you colleagues who serve on the Subcommittee to ensure NEA funding at least at the FY 2017 level of \$150 million when they draft the FY 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg