



A Call to Action for Federal Funding for the Arts, Humanities, Libraries and Museums

March 17, 2017

Disjecta Contemporary Art Center joins museums, nonprofit galleries and art centers in opposition to the Trump administration's proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The arts bring us together, help us understand who we are, make us think hard about difficult subjects – and celebrate our shared humanity.

Disjecta's 12,000 square foot facility in Kenton in North Portland hosts exhibitions planned by emerging curators from diverse locations and backgrounds. Those exhibits have increasingly included works by artists from around the globe: Turkey, Denmark, Mexico and Argentina – because Disjecta knows that art is a powerful common language and bridge between cultures.

Our programming is free and we offer access to all, in part, through direct grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and federal funds that come as operating support from the Oregon Arts Commission. Without those public dollars, we could not offer what we do in one of Portland's most diverse neighborhoods.

Portland Biennials have grown in scope and scale since the exhibition series was revived. The 2016 show filled Disjecta's main gallery with a wide variety of works from all parts of the state. The work of over 34 artists was displayed across Oregon in 25 venues large and small, many of which also rely on important public investment from the NEA and the Arts Commission.

Oregon's visual arts ecology – our museums, arts institutions, college and university programming and artist-run spaces – is as rich and varied as Oregon's landscape. Public funds help Disjecta maintain its unique facility that presents provocative, new work by Oregon and nationally known artists. Those funds enable us to host high school and college class visits, public events and new music and spoken word performances.

They help us bring new audiences together to experience contemporary art. And they help Disjecta provide a safe space for artists to create new, sometimes risk-taking work.

In creating the NEA in 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said that "art is a nation's most precious heritage." Supporting the arts is a patriotic act. Disjecta strongly encourages Congress to sustain

funding for the NEA, NEH, and IMLS, which have supported the cultural fabric of our nation.

We encourage Disjecta's community of artists, audience members and supporters of contemporary art to speak up now to oppose elimination of the NEA, NEH and IMLS.

Take Action:

1. Sign the petition demanding the Trump administration protect funding for the NEA and the NEH. [Share this petition on your social media.](#)

2. [Write to the White House](#)

3. Contact Oregon's Congressional Delegation:

Urge them to oppose the President's request and provide full funding for the NEA. Remind them that 40% of the grant dollars appropriated to the NEA go to states and regions. These funds address state priorities. Rural and low-income areas would be disproportionately hurt by the elimination of the agency.

Senators

Senator Jeff Merkley — 503-326-3386 (Portland office)

Senator Ron Wyden — 503-326-7525 (Portland office)

Members of Congress

Click here for a map to learn who your representative is.

Representative Suzanne Bonamici — 503-469-6010 (Beaverton office)

Representative Greg Walden — 541-624-2400 (La Grande office)

Representative Earl Blumenauer — 503-231-2300 (Portland office)

Representative Peter DeFazio — 541-465-6732 (Eugene office)

Representative Kurt Schrader — 503-557-1324 (Oregon City office)

4. Use your social media channels to spread this message.

Disjecta remains open to all, and we look forward to seeing you at *The Evocative Garden* exhibition hosted in conjunction with the NCECA conference in Portland (through March), followed by curator in residence Michele Fiedler's final show in her year-long series, opening in April. More information at www.disjectaarts.org

Thank you in advance for taking action.

For more information about arts advocacy: [Americans for the Arts](#)