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STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The President's fiscal year 2021 budget proposes the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts. We see our funding actively making a difference with individuals in thousands of communities and in every Congressional District in the nation.

In fiscal year 2019, the National Endowment for the Arts made more than 2,400 awards totaling \$122.4 million in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five additional U.S. jurisdictions. Those grants are leveraged by other public and private contributions up to 9:1, significantly increasing the impact of the federal investment.

In addition to grants, the Arts Endowment national initiatives extend our work through arts programming, such as Creative Forces seeks to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers, resulting in more than 14,000 treatment sessions each year. Arts education initiatives, Poetry Out Loud and Shakespeare in American Communities, together involved more than 600,000 students in 2019.

The President's budget request is a first step in a very long budget process and we will continue to operate as usual while also assisting in that process.

As a federal government agency, the National Endowment for the Arts cannot engage in advocacy, either directly or indirectly. We will, however, continue to share and educate about the National Endowment for the Arts' vital role in providing access to the arts for all Americans.