



The
**Archivists
Round Table**
of Metropolitan
New York,
Inc.

P.O. Box 151
New York
NY
10274-0154

June 7, 2017

Senator Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.) urges you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and to oppose any proposal that would defund them. These agencies support art and humanities projects across the United States. Founded in 1979, A.R.T. is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 400 archivists, librarians, and records managers in the metropolitan New York area.

As a worldwide center for museums, libraries, and archives, New York City has greatly benefited from IMLS, NEA, and NEH support. To date, New York City institutions have received IMLS funding for over 400 projects. This includes, major institutions, such as the New York Public Library, American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Perhaps more importantly, a number of smaller institutions use funding from IMLS grants to preserve their holdings and make their collections available to the public. These institutions are primarily focused on the history of New York's local communities as well as the arts, like the Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Weeksville Heritage Center, and the Staten Island Museum.

NEA and NEH grants, serve as drivers of innovation and economic prosperity. Their challenge grants leverage more than a 9 to 1 match in private charitable gifts and other state and local public funding and create thousands of jobs across the United States. The influence of both organizations extends through state-based agencies, which ensure that these programs reach all communities. Both NEA and NEH fund projects of small institutions and individuals, preserve cultural and educational resources, and support groundbreaking scholarly research.

Federal support for the arts and humanities is essential to our education system, economy, and identity as a nation. Our democracy depends upon engagement with human thought and expression. The ideals of these agencies are a fundamental tenet of American civil society. Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution empowers the United States Congress to promote the "Progress of Science and useful Arts." Support for these activities at the national level aligns with the founding principles of this country. We hope you will keep this in mind



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as you consider the Presidential Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018 which proposes to significantly cut IMLS, NEA, and NEH funding.

The agencies are pivotal in promoting understanding across communities and fostering a sense of our shared cultural heritage, simply with their continued support of the work of archives, libraries, museums, universities, and other cultural organizations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerri Anne Burke
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President

cc: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand