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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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February 21, 2017

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
780 Third Ave. Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Hon. Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senator
780 Third Ave. Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017

Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Congressman
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Nadler:

At its Full Board meeting on February 16, 2016, Community Board #2, adopted the following September resolution:

Resolution in Support of the Protection and Preservation of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Whereas CB2 Manhattan has a long history of supporting local arts and culture and our local arts organizations, which are vital to our community and CB2's identity; and

Whereas CB2 believes that the creation and experience of art is essential to human health and happiness, access to art an inseparable component of a free society, and the support of art a public duty; and

Whereas the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), established by Congress in 1965, is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities; and

Whereas President Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment for the Arts stated, "Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish"; and

Whereas through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America; and

Whereas it has been reported that the Trump Administration is considering eliminating or defunding the NEA; and

Whereas the NEA budget was only .0042% of the total federal spending in FY2016, a total cost per American of approximately \$0.46; and

Whereas part of the NEA's credo, "Art works" declares that "arts jobs are real jobs that are part of the real economy. Art workers pay taxes, and art contributes to economic growth"; and

Whereas the NEA has awarded crucial grants to artists, arts organizations and educational institutions in the CB2 area that depend on NEA funding for their programs or continued operation, such as:

- Cherry Lane Alternative Inc.
- Clubbed Thumb
- DanceNOW
- Film Forum
- Friends of the HighLine
- HB Studio
- Home for Contemporary Theatre and Art, Ltd. (aka HERE)
- International Center of Photography
- New School University
- New York University
- The Public Theater
- Soho Think Tank, Inc. (aka New Ohio Theatre)
- Theatreworks U.S.A.
- Whitney Museum of American Art
- The Wooster Group

Whereas eliminating the NEA would undermine the arts and culture programs that build a stronger and more resilient CB2 community and would leave a lasting adverse impact on the economy and quality of life in CB2, and the City at large.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan calls upon our local elected officials to use their political influence to block any efforts on the part of the Trump Administration to eliminate or defund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

VOTE: Unanimous, with 38 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Terri Cude Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Robin Rothstein, Chair
Arts and Institutions Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c: Hon. Nydia Velasquez, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President