

November 2, 2022

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

We, the Members of the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities, write in regard to the Capital, Repairs, and Employment for Art Talent to Improve Visibility Everywhere (CREATIVE) Act of 2022 (H.R. 9175), which has been referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. As a state arts agency partner of the National Endowment for the Arts, we urge you to advance this bill as soon as possible in the remaining weeks of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As you and your colleagues undoubtedly know, the arts and cultural industries have been tremendously impacted by the pandemic as some of the hardest hit in the American economy. Even now, as other sectors are regaining their financial footing, the recovery of the arts and culture sector has been slow and oftentimes uneven and inequitable. Here both in the Nation’s Capital and across the country, the pandemic laid bare the roots of structural and systemic racism, elitism, and nepotism that have plagued and hindered our arts organizations for decades. The CREATIVE Act, with its emphases on community input and reaching underserved communities, provides a welcome approach to correcting those faults.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, it was understood that the arts and culture sector would be among the last to fully recover. By establishing grants with funding available for three and five years, the CREATIVE Act will help ensure a stable recovery of the arts and culture

sector and allow arts organizations the capacity to plan and grow, both thoughtfully and strategically. For many arts organizations, particularly those in underserved communities, this represents an opportunity to not merely survive, but to thrive.

The impacts and benefits that the CREATIVE Act can potentially bring to diverse communities across America extends far beyond the walls of the theatres and museums in those communities. This bill will create jobs, promote economic growth, and enrich the lives of all Americans. We encourage you and your colleagues to swiftly consider and approve this bill.

Sincerely,

The District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities