



March 3, 2017

Senator Susan M. Collins  
413 Dirksen Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Susan Collins,

I am aware that you recently co-signed a letter to the Trump Administration urging the President to maintain support for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities; for that, I would like to express my deepest appreciation.

It cannot be overstated how important funding for the arts and humanities is to the success of our country, in all congressional districts, urban or rural, rich or poor. Here in Maine, especially in communities like ours, local organizations depend on every dollar of every NEA and NEH grant we receive in order to sustain arts and cultural programming where access is already limited.

The NEA and the NEH have ensured that all Mainers have access to and can learn about their own cultures and those of our neighbors, both local and global. At the Colby College Museum of Art, we've been fortunate to receive NEA funding for many projects, including our upcoming exhibition, *Marsden Hartley's Maine*, for which we were able to partner with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We are so excited to share the work of this Maine-born painter this summer with our central Maine audience, and because of the NEA grant, we are enabled to share his work and his home state with a national audience in New York City.

From our smallest historical societies to our larger academic and municipal museums, the arts and humanities offer ways in which to forge bridges across and within communities, and create solutions to our most pressing social issues. We are so grateful for these programs and for this important work.

I thank you again for your support of the arts, and I look forward to working with you and Maine's congressional delegation to ensure that these realms of human experience remain a fundamental part of life here in Maine and in the United States.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Corwin".

Sharon Corwin  
Carolyn Muzzy Director and Chief Curator

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