March 28, 2017

Congressman Tom Reed
NY 23rd District, Corning Office
89 W. Market Street
Corning, NY 14830

Dear Congressman Reed:

As leaders of the cultural organizations of the Southern Finger Lakes Region and constituents of the New York 23rd District, we are passionate champions for the arts and humanities. We are alarmed that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are being threatened with total defunding in the President’s proposed federal budget for 2018. These agencies supply vital financial support to our nation’s art and artists, and provide invaluable resources to cultural institutions throughout the country. Their support, in turn, allows museums, libraries, galleries, and cultural centers to provide basic services, share diverse cultural expressions, foster imaginations, and inspire wonder in our citizens.

The arts and humanities have long been the vibrant core of our regional community, and we take great pride in our deep cultural heritage. Our organizations receive direct and indirect funding from the NEA, NEH, and IMLS, which is multiplied many times over through the broad range of accessible programming we deliver to enrich and enhance the lives of people of all ages, economic levels and backgrounds. It is especially in small communities and rural counties like ours that federal investments are leveraged for the greatest impact, by helping to sustain some of our smaller local organizations simply to keep the doors open, provide essential cultural programming, and offer an array of valuable enrichment opportunities, especially for our youth.

Cultural organizations strengthen communities and play a vital role in how we perceive and interpret our world. Libraries, too, provide access to educational material and a variety of other resources needed to make a community successful. Collectively, we bear the immense responsibility of preserving and sharing our history through myriad lenses, connecting us more deeply with our past, while asking us to examine the present, and thoughtfully consider the future. Through our programs, we foster lifelong learning and the creative exchange of ideas, passions, and understanding in communities small and large throughout the United States. With funding and exemplary leadership from NEA, NEH and IMLS, we are able to teach, collect, conserve, digitize, share, and inspire.

Congressman Reed, we thank you for your past support of arts and humanities funding. Accompanying this letter, you will find impact statements from the under-signed Southern Tier cultural institutions who rely on direct or indirect federal funding to support programming and catalyze funds from private and corporate contributors. While all our organizations would feel the impact of the proposed cuts, a few specific examples follow. For the Arnot Art Museum, loss of funding would mean potential elimination
of programming or reduction in exhibitions. Federal funding is critical to the continuation of The Rockwell Museum’s popular *Great Circle Artist-in-Residence* and *Garden of Fire* programs. For the Clemens Center, loss of funding would mean increased ticket prices, membership costs, and the possible elimination of key programs.

We maintain that everyone in New York’s 23rd District is impacted, touched, and inspired by our collective programming and outreach. On behalf of the local organizations, artists and people we represent, we stand firmly with the NEA, NEH, and IMLS. We hope we can count on your vote for continued funding for these important federal programs.

Respectfully,

Lynn Dates, 171 Cedar Arts Center
Rick Pirozzolo, Arnot Art Museum
Bruce Whitmarsh,
Chemung Valley History Museum
Ron Shaw, Chemung County Library District
Karen Cromer, Clemens Center
Lynne Rusinko, Community Arts of Elmira
Karol Wight, The Corning Museum of Glass
Monica Nix,
Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes

Tom Weidemann,
International Motor Racing Research Center
Traff Doherty, National Soaring Museum
Marshall Hyde,
Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes
Brian Lee Whisenhunt, Rockwell Museum
Pauline Emery,
Southeast Steuben County Library
Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System
Elaine Spacher, Tanglewood Nature Center
Connie Sullivan-Blum,
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
171 Cedar Arts Center is an integral part of Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes region—an area that inspires broad inclusive arts communities, and nurtures progressive and creative individuals. Together we work to ensure stable organizations for those who wish to immerse themselves in the arts, or dabble with creative ideas. The Center is seen as a premiere location where one can receive high-quality multi-disciplinary arts education.

171 Cedar Arts Center’s campus is vibrant: teaching artists seek to teach within its spaces, and play a significant role in filling both buildings to capacity six days a week. Multi-disciplinary classes taught by reputable professional faculty members attract committed and new students. The Center’s constituents find a multitude of opportunities for self-expression through participation in the arts, regardless of gender, age, or financial situation.

One Seventy One Cedar, Inc. has received more than $633,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts over the past fifteen years. A significant funding reduction to the New York State Council on the Arts, by eliminating the NEA, would have dire effects on 171. We are currently scheduled to receive two more years (2018 and 2019) of a five-year funding contract which totals $70,000.

While we receive no direct NEA funding currently, we have received it in the past to benefit dance performance series, after-school programming, and literary events—all valued by communities throughout a four county region in the Southern Tier of New York.

171 partners with a number of local arts organizations and libraries that do receive NEA, NEH, and IMLS funding; therefore access to opportunities to provide additional arts enrichment activities would be thwarted, if neighboring organizations were to lose their funding completely.
The NEH has provided funding over the years to expand the Center's typical programming range to include speakers who bond the arts and literature together. We've been able to bring an interesting array of learning experiences to audiences of all ages through NEH programming enhancements to our Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations.

171 has been able to strengthen many of its funding proposals because of the confidence instilled through NYSCA, NEA, and NEH, funding — or at least by participating in a funded partnership.

State, Federal, and local arts and humanities organizations run thorough and transparent programming. They work diligently to incorporate every community into their grant making processes, and offer professional development at every turn. They lead the charge to empower artists, maintain our organizations through difficult economic times, heal communities after catastrophes, and they persevere to encourage artists, libraries, schools, and museums to make people feel whole and valued, after feeling dismissed and undervalued.

This funding is needed by our community, and it is short-sighted to eliminate it completely. We remain uniquely human because of our ability to express our shared humanity through every past, current, and future arts discipline — self-expression is not a luxury, it is a rite.

Lynn Dates
Executive Director
171 Cedar Arts Center

March 25, 2017
Statement On Recent Funding From Threatened Sources

The Museum has received indirect funding from the NEA and NEH via supported state and regional organizations over the last 10 years as follows:

**New York State**

$254,200

New York State Council on the Arts

*nb*: An additional $12,000 is committed for the 17-18 season as year 3 of current multi-year grant award.

**National**

$2,000

National Endowment for the Humanities

**Total**

$268,200*

*includes promised 17-18 NYSCA

Grant funds help the Museum meet mission by supporting exhibitions, education programs and outreach services, providing quality programming for the region and unique outreach opportunities to the underserved. The deep cuts to agencies providing these dollars to the arts and humanities and the ultimate loss of this funding stream will mean elimination of important programs and potentially a reduction in staffing.

The Elmira Downtown Revitalization plan ($10 million committed by New York State) is counting on arts and culture as the draw for tourism and providing quality of life for future residents of Elmira. It is counterintuitive and counterproductive at this point to cut funding for the arts. It is bad for business and the economic redevelopment of downtown Elmira.
Since 2006, the Chemung County Historical Society has received $162,772 in general operating support from NYSCA.

In 2015 we received a grant of $24,927 from IMLS for our project "youth in Chemung county". We were able to hire a consulting team that helped us establish a framework for thinking about the proposed exhibit, set format for collecting oral histories for the project and beyond, and helped us collect data through surveys, interviews and focus groups.

I am also very concerned about the greater loss of resources as the NEH especially supports efforts like editing, digitizing and making widely available historic newspapers, documents and letters. The CCHS frequently accesses these types of resources in creating our exhibits and programs, including school programs.

The loss of IMLS and NEH would most directly affect our ability to also try some big projects like the 2015 IMLS award.

Other challenges, as money is lost, will libraries, archives, online sources, schools be forced to cut back? How much? How much more challenging will resources for historic research become? How much less accessible?

NEH is also a source for capital improvements to collection storage and archival storage spaces. The CCHS has not yet applied for one of those grants, but we certainly had it as part of our longer term planning.

Bruce Whitmarsh
Executive Director
Chemung County Historical Society
March 27, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Chemung County Library District in support of the Corning/Southern Tier Cultural Institution Advocacy Consortia. As the director of a county-wide library district I realize the absolute importance of funding for libraries and cultural organizations.

The Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) provides direct support to libraries throughout New York State through support of the New York State Library - Division of Library Development (DLD). Our State Library provides NOVELny, which is the suite of databases our patrons access through our websites.

These databases contain hundreds of thousands of journal articles and information relevant to people of all ages. They are funded through LSTA grants provided by the IMLS to the State Library. With the exception of one central library database, these are the only ones our rural libraries can afford as a cooperative library system.

In addition to funding databases, LSTA grants support positions at the NYS Library - DLD. These librarians are essential to helping the Southern Tier Library System (STLS) administer many initiatives. They include the NYS summer reading program, annual reporting, chartering of libraries and legal support specific to education and municipal law.

The Chemung County Library District has been a direct recipient of NYS Construction Grant funds for the last six years. The amount received, over $750,000, has enabled the District to renovate two of our branches- to include sub projects that provided initiatives to protect the health and safety of patrons and employees. In addition we have replaced the elevator at our main library, renovated our public restrooms for disables access, replaced our chiller unit, and developed a Maker Space for patron use.

Lastly, IMLS affords access to project grants for all New York libraries. New York State has received $4.5 million in project grants between 2014 and 2016.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEA and NEH) support the New York State Council on the Arts and the Council for the Humanities. The Chemung County Library District has received decentralized arts grant funds, initially
funded by the NEA and NEH, that have been used to provide art classes, concerts and other cultural events.

Through the Broadband Initiative funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), CCLD received economic development funds to build fiber connections to 4 libraries in the district. This development was crucial to assist Chemung County and the City of Elmira in the business and the economic redevelopment of downtown Elmira. The Elmira Downtown Revitalization plan ($10 million received from New York State) is counting on arts and culture as the draw for tourism and providing quality of life for future residents of Elmira—so it would be counterintuitive and counterproductive at this point to cut funding for the arts.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ronald W. Shaw
Director
Clemens Center for the Performing Arts

The Clemens Center has received indirect funding from the NEA via supported state and regional organizations over the last 10 years as follows:

State
New York State Council on the Arts - $237,493
NB: An additional $20,000 is promised for the 17-18 season as year 3 of 3 of current grant award.

Regional
Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation - $14,250
New England Foundation for the Arts - $6,000

GRAND TOTAL = $277,743*
*includes 17-18 NYSCA

Additional indirect benefits realized by the Clemens Center related to NEA funding:
- In-Kind Advertising with WSKG Public Radio and Television
- DOD Military Band performances
- Rental of the facility by other NEA-supported nonprofit arts organizations

Grant monies help us meet mission by providing quality programming for the region and unique outreach opportunities to the underserved. Without NEA supported funds we would have to make up a gap of approximately $27,000 annually by increasing ticket prices, increasing membership costs, and/or eliminating key programs.

The Elmira Downtown Revitalization plan ($10 million received from New York State) is counting on arts and culture as the draw for tourism and providing quality of life for future residents of Elmira—so it would be counterintuitive and counterproductive at this point to cut funding for the arts. It would be bad for business and the economic redevelopment of downtown Elmira.

Karen Cromer
Director
Clemens Center
Impact Statement
Federal and State Funding Grants to The Corning Museum of Glass 2004-2017

Both state and federal agencies have provided significant financial support for the Museum's programs. Since 2007, NEA, NEH, and IMLS have provided a total of over $300K support to the Museum and New York State granting agencies have funded more than $2M (NYSCA, NY Council for Humanities, Empire State Development, and the Museum looks forward to recent awards from the New York State Canal Corporation, I Love NY Market, and continued general operating support from NYSCA). The following list details financial support received from government sources, separated by funding source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Endowment of the Humanities</th>
<th>2014 $97,551 Awarded</th>
<th>Wider Scope: Survey of Early Telescopes and images and their Scientific and Cultural Contexts (Transfer from Adler Planetarium)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Endowment of the Arts</td>
<td>2007 $10,000 Awarded</td>
<td>Translations of recorded audio tours Online theme tours (development website application)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012 $10,000 Awarded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>2014 $170,302 Awarded</td>
<td>Broader Scope: A Survey and Analysis of Surviving Refracting Telescopes Prior to 1750 (Transfer from Adler Planetarium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Museum and Library Services</td>
<td>2015 $49,632 Awarded</td>
<td>National Leadership Grant – Whitefriars</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2017 $74,500 Awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Council for Humanities</td>
<td>2013-2014 $3,000 Awarded</td>
<td>Behind the Glass Program: Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire State Development</td>
<td>2013 $1,500,000 Awarded</td>
<td>CMoG International Motorcoach Entrance 2017 Glass Barge Tourism and Media Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017 $57,830 Awarded</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State Canal Corporation</td>
<td>2017 $144,000 Awarded</td>
<td>New York Waterways Glass Barge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Year Total Awarded:</td>
<td>$2,559,615 Awarded</td>
<td>(Federal $338K, New York State $2.2M)</td>
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</table>
As Director here at Heritage Village for just three months, I am not as knowledgeable yet about all the sources of funding our museum has received as most of my director colleagues are about theirs. But as Karen and Marshall both shared about their organizations, Heritage Village receives no direct funding from NEA, NEH, or IMLS. However, we have received indirect funding from NEA and NEH through supported state and regional granting organizations over the years. This includes two events in the past five years presented as a collaboration between Heritage Village and The ARTS Council of the SFL. One jointly presented event was a Lace exhibit which received funding from NEA through NYSCA and the other, "Black Voices of Corning: Perspective on Place," was a joint project which included funding from NEH for a lecture by scholar Verdis Robinson.

As a forty-year career educator and Humanities teacher, I know firsthand the great importance of NEH and NEA to teachers and schools. I also know the impact of their support, through state and regional grants, that living history museums like mine receive. I definitely will be there with our arts community on Tuesday afternoon to add my presence and voice to this important advocacy event.

Warmest regards,
Monica Phillips Nix
Director/Corning
Painted Post Historical Society and Heritage Village
Federal Funding Support

- 2015  $10,000 from NEH to support the Garden of Fire program - the collaborative summer program for children served by area youth agencies
- 2016  $10,000 from NEH to support the Great Circle program-first grade students in Elmira City school district
- 2016  $2,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities that enabled us to present the Smithsonian Institutes' Museum Day Live Event! That featured story tellers inspiring women and girls of color.

The past three years we have received $18,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts which I believe is funding through NEA-anyway, it is government funding.

Brian Lee Whisenhunt
Executive Director
The Rockwell Museum
Organizational Statement on Federal Funding

Friday, March 24, 2017

Southern Tier Library System serves 48 public libraries in Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties throughout the Southern Tier Region of New York State. Our rural libraries are vital to the educational, technological, cultural and economic needs of our 270,000 community members.

Funding cuts to federal agencies will adversely impact our community’s quality of life. Four specific agencies directly support public library services. They include: Institute of Museum & Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

What Southern Tier libraries will lose from federal funding cuts:

- Availability of roughly $1.5 million in annual project grants to New York State libraries through the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS). New York libraries were awarded nearly $4.5 million between 2014 and 2016.

- $8 million in yearly funds to provide NOVELny databases provided by the New York State Library through IMLS – Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grants. These funds also provide staff to the State Library – Division of Library Development to support library systems and local libraries.

- Annual broadband construction funds in the amount $150,000 through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Our region secured $300,000 in 2016 & 2017 to build fiber connections to libraries in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben & Yates counties.

- $200,000 in annual project grants through National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with NYS Council on the Arts and NYS Council for the Humanities.

Please consider the financial impacts these cuts will have on Southern Tier libraries. Our residents will lose life-changing resources specific to education, technology, culture and economic development.

Thank you!
Key Information and Concerns

- The Southeast Steuben County Library secures direct and indirect funding from the NEA and IMLS.
- LSTA (Library Service Technology Act) an IMLS program~ LSTA Funds are essential and pay a vital role in our annual budget. The funds are used for materials, technology and resources that directly impact our patrons. We receive approximately $8,000 per year.
- NEA Big Read grants have provided our library and the CPP-School District with $15,000 for two community reads.
- IMLS data collections provide state and national data that is essential to Libraries and Museums.
- IMLS~ provides funding for research specific to educational and cultural outcomes.
  - Data resources allow Libraries and Museums to make data driven and outcome based decisions.

The Southeast Steuben County Library was nominated for consideration for the IMLS National Media by Congressmen Reed in 2013, and in 2014 by Senator Gillibrand. This leads me to believe our State Legislators believe community educational and cultural institutions play a vital role within our communities. With Federal assistance we are able to provide dynamic and culturally diverse growth for our communities.

Please Support ARTS, CULTURE, and LIBRARIES!

*NEA Funding ~The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to revitalize the role of literary reading in American popular culture. The Big Read brings communities together to read, discuss, and celebrate a great literary work. The Southeast Steuben County Library and the Corning Painted Post School District wanted to target the importance of literacy, tolerance and to celebrate diversity. We partnered and collaborated with various organizations within the community for two Big Reads. These programs impact communities.

Sincerely,

Pauline Emery

Library Director

2 Min Presentation~
Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum in Elmira, NY is proud to be a part of the Garden of Fire collaboration that provides arts and science programming to Steuben County youth in the summer months. This program is a strong arts & cultural partnership that has become not only important to the at-risk youth who benefit from it, but also is a testament to our local cultural organizations getting together and filling a need for this group of youth that can't be filled by anyone else. This program has been funded in part by the NEA and has also spurred Chemung County cultural organizations to do a similar program for that county's at-risk youth population. This is just one of thousands of examples of how organizations like the NEA, NEH and IMLS provide funding for programming that is unique, collaborative, and fills community needs that otherwise wouldn't be filled. To see the funding cut from these entities would have a far-reaching and very negative ripple effect, where non-profits, children, and families suffer. I am strongly opposed to the funding cuts to these important agencies.

Elaine M. Spacher  
Executive Director  
Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum  
443 Coleman Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14903  
607-732-6060  
www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com
The ARTS Council receives roughly $270,000 from NYSCA a year and this represents approximately 43% of our budget. A cut to the NEA indirectly impacts our NYSCA funding which is the bedrock of the services we provide. Last year, mostly due to NYSCA's grant programs, The ARTS Council was able to distribute $149,500 to artists, civic organizations and schools in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties. These grant dollars represent not only education and cultural enrichment, but jobs. Artists are paid through these grants.

The ARTS Council also benefits in other ways from NEA and NEH funding. We are partners with eight other organizations in the Garden of Fire, an arts and science summer program for at-risk youth in Steuben County. Garden of Fire has been a recipient of NEA funding without which it would not have succeeded. Summer programming is especially important for at-risk youth since it keeps them connected to learning skills while school is on break. Garden of Fire serves roughly 35 youth every summer.

Furthermore, The ARTS Council partnered with the Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes (formerly the Benjamin Patterson Inn Museum) and 171 Cedar Arts Center to pay a scholar for an evening lecture during the exhibition of Black Voices of Corning: Perspectives on Place. It was one of a series of events in association with the exhibition that represented a minority population in the region while also creating educational and cultural opportunities for all people.

Federal funding for the NEA and the NEH are minuscule, but they have wide and significant impact. These institutions are investments in the future of our culture and our children. The ARTS Council urges Congressman Reed to not only vote for continued funding of the NEA, NEH, IMLS and CPB, but to be a vocal advocate for them and for the wellbeing of our community.

thank you,

Dr. Constance Sullivan-Blum  
Executive Director  
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes  
79 West Market Street  
Corning, New York 14830  
director@eARTS.org  
www.eARTS.org  
voice 607.962.1332 x204  
fax 607.962.4128  
Explore public art in Corning at bit.ly/corningartmap!
NEH, NEA, and IMLS support for New York Museums (2014–2016)

$15.2 million
110 IMLS grants to New York museums

$14 million
71 NEH grants to New York museums

$2.6 million
68 NEA grants to New York museums

$4.4 million
NEH funds to Humanities New York*

$2.1 million
NEA funds to New York State Council on the Arts*

American Alliance of Museums

www.aam-us.org/advocacy/state-snapshots

Prepared by the American Alliance of Museums based on data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Office of Museum Services, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

*Funds to state humanities councils and state arts agencies are re-granted on the local level to many organizations, including museums.