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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5434
www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

November 14, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the first major round of FY 2009 grants.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. This round of grants awards more than \$20 million to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars from non-federal sources for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for December 4, 2008.

We welcome applications for arts projects in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am delighted to invite you to join me for the inaugural presentation of the National Endowment for the Arts' *Opera Honors* on **Friday, October 31 at 8:00 pm**. It will be a grand evening on stage at the **Harman Center for the Arts** located at **610 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.** Placido Domingo, Sarah Jessica Parker and others will present awards to four distinguished artists, and the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists will perform.

We are pleased that the first recipients of the *NEA Opera Honors* are:

- **Composer: Carlisle Floyd of Tallahassee, FL**, who has had a long and distinguished career as a composer of memorable operas, such as *Susannah* and *Of Mice and Men*.
- **Advocate: Richard Gaddes of Santa Fe, NM**, who is the general director of the Santa Fe Opera and co-founder of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He is known for his challenging and adventurous programming and for identifying young opera talent.
- **Conductor: Maestro James Levine of New York, NY**, best known for conducting more than 2,500 performances of the Metropolitan Opera including premieres of works by Mozart to Weill. He has been the musical director of many of the world's most respected symphony orchestras.
- **Soprano: Leontyne Price of Laurel, MS and New York, NY**, one of the nation's most revered sopranos known for her elegant musical style, her generosity to young singers and her remarkable recording legacy.

We are most grateful to the 110th Congress for establishing the *NEA Opera Honors*, the U.S. government's highest award to U.S. artists who have made extraordinary contributions in the field of opera. Authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, the *NEA Opera Honors* joins similar lifetime achievement awards -- the *NEA Jazz Masters* and *NEA National Heritage Fellowships*.

I hope that you will join us for this wonderful evening celebrating the achievements of American opera. In the meantime if you have any questions, please contact me or Shana Chase at 202.682.5434.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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Dana Gioia

Chairman

August 4, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding a matching grant to an organization in your state. The Endowment is awarding \$10,000 to the Chinese Music Society to support the opening concert of the Chinese Classical Orchestra's 2008-2009 season, featuring guest soloist Chen Yulin.

We invite you to notify the organization of its grant. We will not make an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the fourth consecutive year, in Fiscal Year 2008, the Arts Endowment is awarding at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. These direct grants are in addition to the \$41 million awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional arts agencies and their six regional organizations that is sub-granted by them to artists and organizations in your state.

The direct grants are also in addition to grants and educational materials that the Arts Endowment is providing to communities, large and small, in all 50 states through our National Initiatives -- *American Masterpieces*, *The Big Read*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Recitation Contest*, and programs for military personnel and their families -- *Operation Homecoming* writing workshops and *Great American Voices Military Base Tour*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at (202) 682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

The Nancy Hanks Center
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July 24, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter in support of a grant application from Literature for All of Us. We appreciate knowing of your support for this project.

The application has been received by the agency and is currently under review for the Learning in the Arts category. The three-step review process will continue with final grant decisions scheduled to be announced in March of 2009.

Please be assured that the application for Literature for All of Us will receive every consideration as the review process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-682-5434 if we can be of assistance regarding this or any other matter concerning the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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July 18, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter in support of a grant application from the Lira Ensemble of Chicago. We appreciate knowing of your support for this project.

The application has been received by the agency and is currently under review for an Access to Artistic Excellence grant in the Challenge America category. The three-step review process will continue with final grant decisions scheduled to be announced in March of 2009.

Please be assured that the applications for the Lira Ensemble will receive every consideration as the review process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-682-5434 if we can be of assistance regarding this or any other matter concerning the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann G. Hingston".

Ann Guthrie Hingston, Director
Office of Government Affairs



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

July 16, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding four matching grants to organizations in your state. Enclosed is the list of grantees.

We invite you to notify the organizations of their grants. We will not make an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the fourth consecutive year, in Fiscal Year 2008, the Arts Endowment is awarding at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. These direct grants are in addition to the \$41 million awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional arts agencies and their six regional organizations that is sub-granted by them to artists and organizations in your state.

The direct grants are also in addition to grants and educational materials that the Arts Endowment is providing to communities, large and small, in all 50 states through our National Initiatives -- *American Masterpieces*, *The Big Read*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Recitation Contest*, and programs for military personnel and their families -- *Operation Homecoming* writing workshops and *Great American Voices Military Base Tour*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at (202) 682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Gioia" clearly legible.

Dana Gioia
Chairman

JUL 2 2008

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 2, 2008



Ms. Dana Gioia, Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20506

Dear Ms. Gioia:

I am writing to ask that you consider the literary arts organization, Literature for All of Us, as you review applications for the National Endowment for the Arts' Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth grant program (#GRANT10033332). Funding from the NEA will support the organization's "Books Alive!" project aimed to encourage teens to study literature and poetry.

Literature for All of Us hopes to serve hundreds of students attending alternative schools and after-school programs in low-income neighborhoods of Chicago and Evanston in 2009-2010. According to Literature for All of Us, the "Books Alive!" program will introduce teens to talented writers, enabling them to have group discussions.

Through the NEA grant program, Literature for All of Us is striving to offer students the opportunity to engage in education. With this goal in mind, I thank you for your efforts and hope that you will consider supporting this organization.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2008



Ms. Ann Guthrie Hingston
Director, Office of Congressional Liaison
National Endowment For The Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Room 524
Washington, District of Columbia 20506-0001

Dear Ms. Hingston:

I am writing to ask that you consider the Lira Ensemble as you review their application for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review grants program. The Lira Ensemble is seeking funding for their "Polish Holiday Concerts" which serve to celebrate a major Polish-American family holiday.

With support from the NEA, the Lira Ensemble can continue their efforts to sponsor and perform at multi-ethnic events. Their concerts bring together various community members, allowing those attending and performing an opportunity to better understand and respect each other.

Through the NEA grant program, the Lira Ensemble is striving to spread cultural diversity in the Midwest. With this goal in mind, I thank you for your efforts and hope that you will consider supporting this organization.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

June 19, 2008

[REDACTED] (b)(6)
c/o Dana Gioia
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20506-0001

Dear [REDACTED]: (b)(6)

I am honored to acknowledge and congratulate you as the 2008 Illinois State Champion of the Poetry Out Loud competition. It is surely a great honor to receive such recognition.

Your award-winning work is the beginning of what I am sure will prove a talented and creative future. Your imagination and attention to detail will be valuable in any path you follow. As you continue to grow and move forward, never underestimate your ability to make a difference in the lives of others. Whatever direction you choose, I urge you to use your talent to give back to your community.

Again, [REDACTED] (b)(6), congratulations on this remarkable achievement. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator



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Dana Gioia

Chairman

June 11, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am pleased to inform you that 12 organizations are being awarded matching grants to organize National Endowment for the Arts *Big Read* programs in your state. They were among 208 organizations that will receive grants to conduct an NEA *Big Read* program between September 2008 and June 2009.

The National Endowment for the Arts *Big Read* program is implemented in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is administered by Arts Midwest. The *Big Read* grants will enable the organizations to engage their entire communities--young and old alike--in reading and discussing a single book. In addition, the Arts Endowment will provide participating organizations with free support materials including Reader's Guides for students and community participants, Teacher's Guides, Audio Introductions to the book, as well as a comprehensive website.

At a time when reading is rapidly declining among all age groups, the NEA's *Big Read* presents the largest reading program in the United States to encourage Americans to discover the joy of reading great literature. Since the program began in 2006, the Arts Endowment has awarded more than 530 *Big Read* grants and engaged more than 2,000 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

The Arts Endowment will issue a national press release on June 16, 2008. We encourage you to announce the NEA *Big Read* grants and participate in upcoming community events. Information about the grants can be found on the enclosed attachment.

If you have questions, please contact me or our Government Affairs staff at (202) 682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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June 2008 Big Read Grants **ILLINOIS**

The following organizations are being awarded matching grants to conduct a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program. These programs will take place between September 2008 and June 2009. For more information, please visit www.neabigread.org, or contact the NEA's Office of Government Affairs at (202) 682-5434.

Organization: Aurora Public Library
Location: Aurora
Grant Awarded: \$14,000
Book Selection: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
Contact: Christine Schabel, Adult Services Coordinator
Phone: (630) 264-4134

Organization: Bartlett Public Library District
Location: Bartlett
Grant Awarded: \$2,500
Book Selection: *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
Contact: Karen Stier Pulver, Manager, Adult & Teen Services
Phone: (630) 213-5026

Organization: Spoon River College Foundation
Location: Canton
Grant Awarded: \$8,000
Book Selection: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
Contact: Carol Davis, Dean of Community Education
Phone: (309) 647-6395

Organization: Champaign Public Library
Location: Champaign
Grant Awarded: \$12,000
Book Selection: *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett
Contact: Linda Larson, Adult Services Librarian
Phone: (217) 403-2070 ext. 2079

Organization: Columbia College Chicago
Location: Chicago
Grant Awarded: \$20,000
Book Selection: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
Contact: Kim Hale, Head of Collection Management
Phone: (312) 344-7355

Organization: DeKalb Public Library
Location: DeKalb
Grant Awarded: \$20,000
Book Selection: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
Contact: Dee Coover, Director DeKalb Public Library
Phone: (815) 756-9568 ext. 24

Organization: Galesburg Public Library
Location: Galesburg
Grant Awarded: \$15,000
Book Selection: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
Contact: Pam Van Kirk, Director
Phone: (309) 343-6118

Organization: Rend Lake College
Location: Ina
Grant Awarded: \$10,000
Book Selection: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
Contact: Sandra West, Coord of TechServ & Coll Mgmt
Phone: (618) 437-5321 ext. 1249

Organization: Acorn Public Library District
Location: Oak Forest
Grant Awarded: 6000
Book Selection: *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
Contact: Mary A. Tuytschaevers, Director
Phone: (708) 687-3780

Organization: Peoria Public Library
Location: Peoria
Grant Awarded: \$18,000
Book Selection: *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett
Contact: Roberta Koscielski, Supervisor of Grants Coordinat
Phone: (309) 497-2186

Organization: Illinois State Library
Location: Springfield
Grant Awarded: \$20,000
Book Selection: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
Contact: Joseph Natale, Development Director
Phone: (217) 558-4185

Organization: Sterling Public Library
Location: Sterling
Grant Awarded: \$15,000
Book Selection: *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett
Contact: Jennifer Slaney, Director
Phone: (815) 625-1370 ext. 11



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

April 3, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We invite you to join us at the *Poetry Out Loud* lunch to honor 52 high school students who have won the honor to represent their States at the 2008 National Finals of *Poetry Out Loud*. The lunch will be held on **Tuesday, April 29 from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in Dirksen G-50** and will be attended by more than 200 students, teachers, and parents from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We invite you to stop by and meet your constituent, the 2008 **Illinois** State Champion, [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] who attends [REDACTED]. You will have an opportunity to have a photograph taken and address the students, if you wish.] (b)(6)

The National winner of the 2008 National *Poetry Out Loud* competition will receive a **\$20,000 college scholarship**. The state champions will compete all day Monday, April 28 with the top 12 students advancing to the finals held the evening of April 29 beginning at 7 p.m. The competition is held on stage at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, located at 730 21st Street, N.W. It is an inspiring evening that you, your family and staff may want to attend.

Poetry Out Loud program is a national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts conducted in partnership with The Poetry Foundation, the state arts agencies and classroom teachers throughout the country. Now in its third year, the program engages high school students in memorizing and performing great poetry. This year more than 150,000 high school students have competed. Each state champion receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals. Each state champion's school receives \$500 for the purchase of poetry books for their school library.

I hope you will be able to join us to honor these impressive young people. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Shana Chase or Monica Glockner at (202) 682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman