



Final 2020 Funding Priorities

On December 16, 2019, the final FY 2020 appropriations bills were released to the public. Below is a summary of the five items for which Americans for the Arts has been advocating throughout the year.

These funding gains have been made possible by an active Congressional Arts Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus, a growing coalition of pro-arts organizations, and motivated grassroots advocates in every state.




Arts & Cultural Agency and Education Programs Funding

Interior Appropriations Bill

The final FY 2020 Interior bill provides \$162.25 million to the National Endowment for the Arts, which is a \$7.25 mil. increase for national grantmaking. This is the largest increase in a decade.

Education Appropriations Bill

The final Education appropriations bill provides \$30 million to the federal Assistance for Arts Education grant program—same as FY 2019. The U.S. Senate committee report admonishes the National Assessment Governing Board for terminating the arts assessment, and calls for it to be administered.



Arts & Veterans, Servicemembers

Defense Department Appropriations Bill

U.S. House bill includes language to increase support for creative arts therapies for treating Defense Department servicemembers with traumatic brain injuries and psychological health conditions.

Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

Similar to the Defense bill, the final Veterans Affairs appropriations bill includes language to increase support for creative arts therapies. Additionally, it includes first time funding of \$5 million for creative arts therapies in treating veterans through the VA's Whole Health initiative.



Arts & Juvenile Justice Programs

Justice Department Appropriations Bill

Both the U.S. House and Senate bills include language calling on the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention to include arts-based juvenile justice programs among its strategies.