



ArtFBI

ArtFax

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A Faxazine of Arts Information from Cyberspace to the Mid-Atlantic Community

OPEN STUDIO ANNOUNCES ACCESS SITES

Open Studio: The Arts Online has announced the selection of a new group of Open Studio “access” and “mentor” sites. Together with the nine pilot access sites and three pilot mentor sites already selected last fall, these organizations will work to define and encourage public space in the new digital environment.

Created by the Benton Foundation in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts, Open Studio is a joint effort to establish public points of access and associated training programs to the Internet at arts and cultural institutions throughout the country.

The access sites are public points of access where artists and members of the interested public can gain access to the Internet for free. Mentor sites will provide arts organizations and individuals artists the basic skills needed for online communications and electronic publishing.

Selected to maximize geographic, income, and ethnic diversity across the 56 states and territories, the access sites (listed in toto on The

Open Studio web site at <http://www.openstudio.org>) span the United States from Out North Contemporary Art House in Anchorage, Alaska to the Prichard Art Gallery in Moscow, Idaho to the United Arts Council of Collier in Naples, Florida.

Priority was given to sites that will be able to provide access in underserved rural areas or in inner urban areas — such as the North Country Council in Bethlehem, New Hampshire that is the regional planning commission for Northern New Hampshire and Beacon Street Gallery in Chicago (one of the Pilot sites selected last fall) that in addition to its exhibition programs, works with youth from ages 3-21 through its daycare, school and art job programs.

Ten regional mentor sites were also selected to provide arts organizations and individuals artists the basic skills needed for online communications and electronic publishing. The mentor sites also span the country — from Break Away Technologies in Los Angeles, California to the



Media Working Group in Covington, Kentucky to the Center for Arts Management & Technology in Pittsburgh, PA.

Within the next several months, these organizations will provide arts organizations and individual artists with the training to use the World Wide Web to communicate, share information, and link effectively to other arts sites on the Web. The program is designed to spread outward from these initial sites, and each trainee will be required to commit to train one other organization or artist in an "each one teach one" strategy.

The only organization in the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan area to be awarded a grant in either of these categories was the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (<http://www.charm.net/~midarts/>), which was chosen as an access site.

For a complete list of Open Studio access and mentor sites and more information about the program, visit the web site at <http://www.openstudio.org> or contact Anne Green — Email: annieg@benton.org

Sources: Arts Wire and ArtFBI

Budget Plan Fails To Protect NEA

Lengthy and delicate negotiations — "acrimonious haggling," according to the Washington Post —

have resulted in a final agreement on the budget deal. The plan would eliminate the deficit by 2002 and calls for substantial entitlement savings that include \$115 billion of cuts in Medicare and net tax cuts of \$85 billion over five years.

The Post reports that Republicans succeeded in blocking White House efforts to protect spending levels for the National Endowment for the Arts. (NEA)

House Majority Leader Richard K. Arney (R-Tex.) told reporters that the House will vote to eliminate the NEA even though the White House has made it clear that it considered the NEA one of its domestic priorities. "I

don't know what all they have discussed," the Post quotes Arney as saying concerning the budget talks. "I believe we are going to zero out NEA and, in doing so, it will be good for art and freedom in the arts. It is long overdue to be done."

Sources: Eric Pianin and Clay Chandler in the Washington Post as posted on Arts Wire


Endowment Reauthorization Hearing Focuses On Education

WASHINGTON, DC — Senator James Jeffords, 

BUILDING ARTS AUDIENCES AND COMMUNITIES ON THE WEB

Arts Wire announces the publication of a new resource for arts organizations: BUILDING ARTS AUDIENCES AND COMMUNITIES ON THE WEB by Beth Kanter.

This 56 page manual was developed as part of a series of web training workshops given by Arts Wire staff members Beth Kanter, Barry Lasky, and Joe Matuzak and funded by the Arts Challenge Fund of New Jersey. It is a "hands-on" step-by-step guide for arts organizations to plan, develop, implement and promote their website.

Developed specifically for use by arts organizations, the manual addresses the unique needs of non-profits, as well as identifying potential opportunities for them on the web. Topics covered include plan- 

ning and organizing your website; identifying target audiences; basic and advanced HTML resources; web design; web marketing techniques; promotional tactics and evaluation. Detailed narrative and instructions are supported by "critical browsing" exercises, lists of specific arts sites on the web that illustrate the topics discussed. In addition, the publication is supplemented by a companion website at <http://www.artswire.org/spiderschool> that offers additional resources and is updated and expanded on an ongoing basis so organizations can keep abreast of current developments in web technology and culture.

Copies are available for \$15 each, plus \$3 for shipping, from Arts Wire Web Manual, New York Foundation for the Arts, 155 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10013-1507 (212) 366-6900

(R-VT) Chair of Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources chair of the committee, opened the NEA/NEH reauthorization hearing on April 29 by stating an intent to cover the issue of reauthorization with a broad brush and to focus particularly on education. "Both agencies have great potential to enhance and improve the educational opportunities for the people of our nation," he said, according to **NCC Washington Updates**.

NCC Washington Update reports that Jeffords noted that in the last Congress the Senate passed a bipartisan reauthorization bill that would tighten administration of both agencies. He stated that he hoped to use that legislation as a basis for this year's discussion.

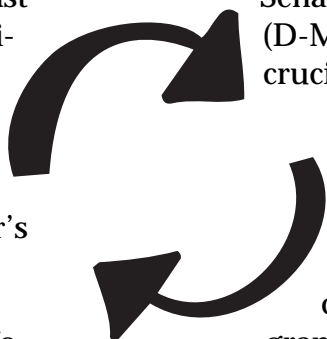
Reauthorization legislation focuses on an agency's mission and its bylaws. **The Washington Post** explains that "many agencies, including the NEA and the NEH, can continue to receive appropriations without reauthorization. However, reauthorization would send a welcome message of support this year, as the NEA faces congressional threats to shut its doors in October."

The Post reports that the hearing highlighted recent research that shows the benefit of the arts

in education. Testimony at the hearing included representatives of four projects that had received arts and humanities education funds — among them, Washington, DC teacher, Alicia Dandridge, whose sixth-grade class at Marie Reed Community Learning Center had received funds from the Kennedy Center. Math scores dramatically improved after the class started a furniture refinishing business using design and math skills, Dandridge testified, according to the Post.

According to the NCC Washington Updates' summary of the testimony, ranking minority member, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) stressed the crucial impact of these small agencies on the arts and humanities of the country and stated that a few controversial grants shouldn't warrant the elimination of the endowments. Senator John Warner (R-VA) complemented the two chairs of the endowments and said they had brought their agencies enhanced credibility. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) spoke about the indispensable role of the endowments in economic development, and Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) stressed focusing endowment priorities on underserved constituents, particularly children and rural areas.

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) presented his idea for building a true endowment for these agencies by auctioning off expired copy-



rights. Although, according to NCC Washington Updates, he noted that the Copyright Office had been somewhat hostile to this idea, he said he was continuing to pursue it. In what NCC Washington Updates describes as "sharply worded" comments and questions, Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-ARK) attacked the NEA for its high administrative costs and fiscal problems, and its failure to respond within a year to an Inspector General's report. Hutchinson stated that no federal dollars should be spent on NEA.

The Washington Post reports that Hutchinson said that the NEA spent nearly 20 percent of its operating budget in administrative costs during fiscal 1996 and called for an independent auditor to examine the NEA's spending. In response, an NEA spokesman explained that the figure included severance packages for 89 employees who were laid off after budget cuts, and it has declined since. NEA Chairman Jane Alexander said that she would be willing to have an independent auditor examine the agency's spending. The Post quotes her as saying "If we

received the \$136 million the president proposed, our administrative costs would drop to 13 percent."

Sources: NEA Chairman Jane Alexander's Testimony Before Congress April 24th testimony before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Interior <http://arts.endow.gov/Community/News/Testimony2.html> April 29th testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources - <http://arts.endow.gov/Community/News/Reauthorization.html>.

Page Putnam Miller, "Senate Hearing on Reauthorization of NEA and NEH" NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE (<http://h-net.msu.edu/~ncc/>) vol. 3, # 17, April 29, 1997

Jacqueline Trescott "Arts Agencies Reexamined; Senate Debates Funding, Mission of NEA, NEH" The Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>) Wednesday, April 30 1997; Page D02

Posted on Arts Wire

For those of you in the Mid Atlantic arts community who haven't returned your Internet Survey, you still have time to do so.

This survey, being conducted by ArtFBI with the support of the Maryland State Arts Council, is being conducted to assess the needs of artists and art organizations in Maryland and to see how the Internet is presently being used by our community.

If you have any Internet questions or about the survey drop us email or give us a call.

End
Transmission

