AMERICAN ARTS ALLIANCE

ADVOCATES FOR THE ARTS

American Symphony Orchestra League

Association of Performing Arts Presenters

Dance/USA

OPERA America

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Dear Member of Congress:

The American Arts Alliance is pleased to once again be a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007. Each year we get together as arts advocates to ask you to support policies that recognize the importance of the creativity to America.

The American Arts Alliance is a national network of more than 4,000 members comprising the professional, nonprofit performing arts and presenting fields. Through legislative and grassroots action, the American Arts Alliance advocates for national policies that recognize, enhance and foster the contributions the performing arts make to America.

On behalf of our 4,000 members and the audiences they serve, we encourage you to enhance and strengthen the performing arts by supporting the following actions.

- **Increase Funding for the NEA** - We urge Congress to support a budget of $176 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA nurtures the growth and artistic excellence of thousands of arts organizations and artists in every corner of the country.

- **Improve Visa Processing** - We urge Congress to enact legislation that would reduce the total processing times for O and P petitions filed by, or on behalf of, nonprofit arts-related organizations to a maximum of 45 days.

- **Increase Funding for Arts Education** - We urge Congress to support a budget of $53 million for the Arts in Education programs at the Department of Education.

- **Increase Funding for Cultural Exchange** – We urge Congress to support a $10 million increase for the Cultural Programs Division of the Stat Departments' Office of Citizen Exchanges.

We encourage you to support policies that support the performing arts and the audiences they serve.

Sincerely,

Abel Lopez
Chair
American Arts Alliance