

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST



April 1, 2008

Michael Winship  
President

Dear Member of Congress:

Robert Schneider  
Vice President

The Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) is a proud National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008. A labor union representing approximately 4,000 professional writers in motion pictures, television, cable, broadcast news and new media, we are actively involved in the promotion of the arts, including legislative activities at the state, federal, and international level.

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In 1978, the WGAE established The Writers Guild of America, East, Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization fostering the art of writing for motion pictures and television, encouraging and developing creative talent among "new" writers, and administering programs of information, education and support for scriptwriters at the threshold of their careers in the film and broadcasting industries. The Foundation has received support from government agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as from studios and networks, producers and agents, and from the WGAE and its individual members.

Mona Mangan  
Executive Director

The WGAE strongly supports legislation to promote the arts, and urges Congress to draft and pass legislation implementing UNESCO's Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist. The WGAE also requests that Congress increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, arts in education programs within the U.S. Department of Education, and the State Department's Cultural Programs Division; and reject funding cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The WGAE further asks that Congress amend the tax code to allow for charitable deductions of artists' own artistic work at full market value, remove restrictions on fractional gifts of art, and enact legislation to reinstate the provision allowing donation of moneys from IRA accounts to charity, absent negative tax consequences.

Ann Toback  
Assistant Executive Director

We believe these issues are crucial to the future of the arts in America.

Sincerely,

555 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019-2967

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Winship".

Michael Winship  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mona Mangan".

Mona Mangan  
Executive Director

T: 212-767-7800  
F: 212-582-1909  
www.wgaeast.org