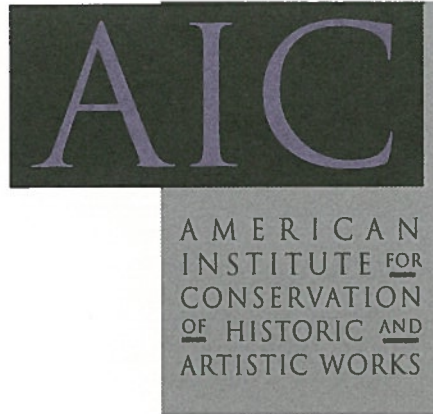


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March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC), a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009, is the national membership organization supporting conservation professionals in preserving our cultural heritage. AIC's mission is to advance the practice and promote the importance of the preservation of cultural material as a means toward a deeper understanding of our shared humanity. We accomplish our goals by providing educational opportunities, establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public.

Founded in 1972, AIC has grown to over 3,500 conservators, educators, scientists, students, archivists, art historians, and other conservation enthusiasts in 49 states and over 20 countries around the world. AIC has worked steadily over the years to increase its national leadership role through education, outreach, and partnerships with allied professionals.

We join our colleagues in urging you to support legislation to promote the arts and protect our national heritage. During difficult economic times, continuing support of the arts is particularly critical. The arts promote cultural well-being along with providing economic vitality to our communities. By supporting an increase for the Office of Museum Services within IMLS, you are providing critical support for the museums that care for our national heritage. Likewise, by increasing funding levels for NEA and NEH, you are investing in our nation's art and culture.

Please consider the irrevocable losses to our country if the arts are not given the vital support they warrant. We thank you for your actions to save our cultural heritage for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eryl P. Wentworth', is written over a horizontal line.

Eryl P. Wentworth
Executive Director