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*Working in
partnership with:*

*Alabama State
Council on the Arts*

*Florida Division of
Cultural Affairs*

*Georgia Council for
the Arts*

*Kentucky Arts
Council*

*Louisiana Division
of the Arts*

*Mississippi Arts
Commission*

*North Carolina Arts
Council*

*South Carolina Arts
Commission*

*Tennessee Arts
Commission*

Dear Member of Congress,

The Southern Arts Federation is a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009. We are a nonprofit regional arts organization with the mission of supporting and promoting the arts throughout the southeast. We work in partnership with the nine state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Together, we serve a very large and diverse population. Southern Arts Federation carries out its work with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

We feel strongly about the importance of the issues coming before this Congress. Specifically, we urge you to support the following:

The approval of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts that moves its budget toward a funding level of \$200 million, which serves communities nationally and throughout the Southeast.

Increased funding for the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The strengthening of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act with improvements such as retention of the arts in the definition of core academic subjects, rearing annual state reports on student access to core academic subjects, improved national data collection and research in arts education, and the reauthorization of the Arts in Education programs of the U.S. Department of Education.

We believe favorable consideration of all these issues is vital to the future of our nation and our people.

Respectfully yours,

Gerri Combs
Executive Director