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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Date:

TO: *Jim Connor*

FROM: Deputy Director

*This should be in
your files. No
further action
required.*

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading "JC", written in black ink.



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

December 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT *hartz*

SUBJECT: National Endowment for the Arts FY 1978 Budget

As this Administration leaves office, you have stressed that it is appropriate and desirable that we clearly indicate sound directives for the future on issues of fundamental importance.

The arts, in my view, are one of these issues and deserve special attention as you make final decisions on the Fiscal Year 1978 budget.

The 1970's have been a period of burgeoning public interest in the arts and widespread recognition that experience with and participation in them is a key to improving the quality of life throughout the nation. You, as President and as Minority leader in Congress, have played a leading role in making this trend a reality. It is entirely fitting that you, through your FY '78 budget, lead the way to a "high water mark" in Federal funding for the arts.

At the present, the OMB at your direction, has included a challenge grant program for both FY '77 and FY '78. This program will provide substantial long-term stability for the large cultural institutions for which it is designed. Unfortunately, the OMB is balking at taking a similar leadership position for the Arts Endowment basic program.

*no
2 approval*

The importance of the Federal government taking a leadership position in funding the full range of the arts cannot be overstated. By doing so, it sets an example for states, communities, foundations, corporations and private citizens to follow. In the end, these non-Federal participants contribute far more than does the Federal government. However, the essential leadership is ours to take. The cost of this step, in my view, is to add \$20 million to the basic budget.

My figure is less than that of the National Council on the Arts and more than the one Nancy Hanks has presented as a bare minimum. I believe we should make a meaningful statement.

I hope you will agree to the addition of \$20 million.