

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

June 24, 2025

Hon. Senator Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader of the United States Senate
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Hon. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator of New York
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017

Hon. United States Representative Jerry Nadler
12th Congressional District Representative
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014

RE: Protecting Federal Arts and Culture Funding

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Representative Nadler,

At the Full Board Meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on June 18, 2025, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS arts and cultural organizations are a driver of New York State and the City's economies; and

WHEREAS arts funding will enable the country to maintain its pre-eminent status as an arts creator and destination; and

WHEREAS access to the arts increases civic and community engagement; and

WHEREAS access to the arts contributes to mental health; and

WHEREAS arts and culture contribute to the quality of life; and

WHEREAS arts and cultural organizations attract residents and visitors to New York City; and

WHEREAS the NEA funds large and small arts organizations, and provided grants in 2024 of up to \$100,000 to at least 266 arts organizations in New York City; and

WHEREAS the NEA, established by Congress in 1965, has played a critical role in supporting and promoting access to the arts across the country; and

WHEREAS the NEA funds a wide variety of cultural programming, arts education, community development initiatives, and job creation efforts across the country, leading to the country's globally unmatched arts and cultural vitality; and

WHEREAS eliminating the NEA from the federal budget would result in the loss of essential funding for arts organizations, educational programs, veterans' arts therapy, and countless local initiatives that enrich civic life and community well-being; and

WHEREAS the Institute for Museums and Library Sciences (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) also provide grants to cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS federal funding has been cut from a vast variety of arts and cultural organizations, including theatres, botanical gardens, musical conservatories, dance entities, music and film festivals, and literary magazines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB8 urge our representatives in Congress to reinstate any and all funding cut by the Federal Government to arts and cultural institutions including, but not limited to, performance venues, museums, visual and performing artists and entities, and arts education, and to reinstate funding to the NEA, NEH, and IMLS, and oppose any future defunding of the NEA, NEH, and IMLS.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Alida Camp

Alida Camp
Chair, Arts Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District