

**You Can Help – Speak Up Now for the Arts and the Economy:** Here is Americans for the Arts' link to write to your members of Congress to encourage them to support keeping the arts in the proposed economic stimulus package. Copy and paste the link below and let your voice be heard. <http://www.capwiz.com/artsusa/issues/alert/?alertid=12426636>

**News from Americans for the Arts  
Concerning the Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package**

House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI) released on January 15, 2009, a summary on the structural framework for the proposed \$825 billion *American Recovery and Investment Bill of 2009* economic stimulus plan, which Congress has tentatively scheduled to start considering this week. The press release that outlines the economic recovery proposal can be found and downloaded at this link. Included in the proposed bill is an **infusion of \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts** (in addition to its annual appropriations) to specifically preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support. As stated in the bill's report language "The National Endowment for the Arts is positioned to use existing mechanisms to allocate lifeline funding quickly to these nonprofit organizations to retain jobs."

Here's a summary analysis of how the Americans for the Arts recommendations compare to the related provisions currently in the House bill:

<b>Americans for the Arts Recommendations</b>	<b>House of Representatives Proposal</b>
Include artists in the proposal for Unemployment & Healthcare Benefits for Part-Time Employees.	Proposes to extend unemployment insurance coverage for low-wage, part-time, and other jobless workers.
Boost arts projects in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).	\$1 billion in additional funding for CDBG.
Provide economic recovery support to the National Endowment for the Arts to be administered by local arts agencies.	\$50 million in additional appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts.
Include cultural planning through Economic Development Administration program (Department of Commerce).	\$250 million for Economic Development Assistance.
Increase community cultural facilities support in Rural Development Program (Department of Agriculture)	\$200 million for critical rural community facilities.
Provide more support for arts projects in Transportation Enhancements (Department of Transportation)	\$31 billion to modernize federal and other public infrastructure.
Fulfill the Obama pledge for an "Artist Corps."	\$200 million to put approximately 16,000 additional AmeriCorps members to work doing national service.
Make Human Capital Investments in Arts Job Training (U.S. Department of Labor).	\$5 billion for working training and employment services.

**More information on the ongoing efforts on Americans for the Arts response to the economic downturn can be found at Americans for the Arts at this link:**  
[http://www.artsusa.org/information\\_services/recovery/default.asp](http://www.artsusa.org/information_services/recovery/default.asp)