As Congress reaches its mid-year summer recess, below is a summary of the current legislative status of the bills and policies that Americans for the Arts and advocates across the country have been advocating throughout the year. The issue briefs for this legislative portfolio is available online here.

These advances in arts policy have been made possible by an active and bipartisan Congressional Arts Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus, a dedicated coalition of pro-arts organizations, and motivated grassroots advocacy leaders in every state.

**Arts Education for All Bill**
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) will introduce this bill later this year.

**Support for the Arts through U.S. Dept. of Education Funding**
The House Appropriations Committee recommended $93.4 mil. for the Arts Education Program, $2.5 mil. more than the FY 2021 level and the FY 2022 budget request. This program provides competitive grants to support professional development and the development of instructional materials and programming that integrate the arts into the curricula.

**Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA)**
Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM) reintroduced this bill in May 2021. It’s a proposal to support a new $300 mil. creative workforce grant program through the U.S. Dept. of Labor, in coordination with the NEA.

**PLACE Act**
The Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy (PLACE) Act is being prepared by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) for reintroduction in both the House and Senate.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**
ARPA was signed into law in March 2021. The bill provided arts venues and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with $7.4 mil. in relief funds for arts agencies, companies, and organizations. Additional support for the arts and arts education can come through state and local governments and school districts.

**Saving Transit Arts Resources (STAR) Act**
Reintroduced by Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) in April 2021, the STAR Act passed the House as a provision within the Inflation Reduction Act. It’s a proposal to support a new $300 mil. creative workforce grant program through the Department of Transportation.

**Universal Giving and Pandemic Response Act**
Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) reintroduced this bill in March 2021, along with 14 co-sponsors. It provides $50.8 mil. in support for nonprofits, including arts organizations.

**Title V: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program**
The House Commerce, Justice, and Science report contained language specifically encouraging the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to establish a demonstration program focused on providing competitive grants to partnerships between arts organizations and juvenile justice systems.

**Member Directed Spending - Earmarks**
Out of 3,012 member-directed spending requests submitted for FY 2022, members of Congress proposed funding 142 arts and culture-related projects, providing over $800 million to local arts organizations. The House approved 90% of these expenditures in passing the seven FY 2022 appropriations bills. The Senate will consider their earmark projects later this fall.

For more information, contact:
Lauren Cohen, lcohen@artsusa.org
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