



Make your Voice Heard with the DC City Council

TAKE ACTION to Help Protect the Humanities in DC

On April 2nd, all state humanities councils, including HumanitiesDC, were notified that our awarded National Endowment for the Arts (NEH) grants—including general operating funds for the current fiscal year—were canceled in their entirety, effective immediately.

NEH has not yet distributed the majority of the \$880,000 in general operating support allocated to HumanitiesDC by Congress in the current budget cycle, and this announcement indicates we will not receive those funds. This will have a significant impact on our programs and operations.

Because of our limited representation in Congress, we urge you to take a moment to contact your city council member and help advocate for continued support of the humanities and arts in our city. Through the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and DC Public Library, the DC council is a key partner in HumanitiesDC's grantmaking and public programs. It is imperative that in this challenging moment, Washingtonians continue to have access to the tools that help us build connections, community, and resilience.

After you take action, please consider forwarding your email and any information you learn from your outreach to officeadmin@humanitiesdc.org so that we may be able to keep track of our collective efforts.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: Send an email or call your Councilmember

Contact your Councilmembers and share why you support the humanities in DC! Here is some Sample Language to help get you started.

Dear Council Members xxx,

My name is YOUR NAME HERE, and I am a resident of NEIGHBORHOOD AND WARD.

As you may be aware, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) recently demanded that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) cancel all funding to humanities councils across the country, including HumanitiesDC. This move was designed to dismantle the agency and the majority of the 56 humanities councils.

Thousands of DC residents will be impacted by this loss because of the effects on:

- Important community gatherings, like the DC History Conference and the DC/DOX Documentary Film Festival;
- Free, vital cultural services and programming shared regularly across the city, and;
- Critical support and funding for the over 100 grantees and independent humanities practitioners responsible for the city's festivals, documentaries, historical research, local museums and cultural activities.

Our libraries, archives, arts centers, historical associations - the foundations that help us create, celebrate, and learn from our city's rich heritage, and in turn help build civic engagement - are all simultaneously under siege.

I understand this is a challenging budget year, and you're facing many difficult decisions. I'm reaching out to ask you to consider that DC's arts and humanities programs are not just a luxury—they are a vital part of our community's identity, especially in this complex moment.

[ADD your own thoughts about why you or your organization support the humanities in DC]

I hope that through your support, you can help protect arts and humanities in DC, ensuring our cultural heritage continues to thrive.

Thank you,

YOUR NAME

COUNCILMEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Councilmember	Ward	Number	Email Address
Phil Mendelson	At-Large	(202) 724-8032	pmendelson@dccouncil.gov
Anita Bonds	At-Large	(202) 724-8064	abonds@dccouncil.gov
Christina Henderson	At-Large	(202) 724-8105	chenderson@dccouncil.us
Kenyan McDuffie	At-Large	(202) 724-7772	kmcduffie@dccouncil.gov
Robert White	At-Large	(202) 724-8174	rwhite@dccouncil.gov
Brianne Nadeau	Ward 1	(202) 724-8181	bnadeau@dccouncil.gov
Brooke Pinto	Ward 2	(202) 724-8058	bpinto@dccouncil.gov
Matthew Frumin	Ward 3	(202) 724-8062	mfrumin@dccouncil.gov
Janeese Lewis George	Ward 4	(202) 724-8052	jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov
Zachary Parker	Ward 5	(202) 724-8028	zparkers@dccouncil.gov
Charles Allen	Ward 6	(202) 724-8072	callen@dccouncil.gov
Wendell Felder	Ward 7	(202) 724-8068	wfelder@dccouncil.gov

Vacant	Ward 8	(202) 724-8045	Please consider reaching out to an at-large member
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ADDITIONAL STEPS COUNCILMEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Share this action alert:** Post it on social media, then send it directly to five people in your network and ask them to take action as well. Share this document with your neighbors, colleagues, and family members and ask them to consider contacting their councilmember.
- **Submit Public Testimony in Support of HumanitiesDC and Humanities Programs:** Submitting public testimony in support of HumanitiesDC’s partners, DC Public Libraries and the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, is a great way to show your support for the Humanities in DC! Contact grants@humanitiesdc.org to learn more about how you can testify at the upcoming budget hearings.
- **Donate:** [Make a gift](#) to help us keep our programs available—now and in the future.

Thank you so much for lending your voice and being a partner. We appreciate you!