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A Call to Action in Uncertain Times from Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts Executive Director Scott Evans

Boston, MA

As we embark on our 350th year at the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, I am reminded of the vital role the arts play in our community. **Recently, we faced an unexpected challenge: the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has rescinded the grant previously awarded to support our regionally acclaimed Artist in Residence program.** This decision, driven by a shift in funding priorities from the current administration, highlights a troubling reality—our unyielding focus on equity and access does not align with the new priorities outlined by the NEA.

The NEA's decision underscores the critical need for robust support for the arts, especially during times of uncertainty. The creative sector has always been a powerful force for bringing people together and giving voice to diverse perspectives. Now, more than ever, we must rally together to ensure that these vital opportunities remain accessible to Boston-area artists and students.

At the Eliot School, we provide transformative experiences through woodworking, painting, sewing, and more. Our programs are not merely classes; they are pathways to future careers that teach essential skills like problem-solving, collaboration, and craftsmanship. The loss of NEA funding will hinder our ability to deliver on our mission, making community support essential for us to continue this crucial work.

As we celebrate our legacy, we are also committed to ensuring that future generations can express themselves through the arts. Our spring and summer programs will continue to offer classes for youth, adults, and intergenerational learners alike, fostering spaces where imagination and skill-building thrive.

We are calling on our community to stand with us during this critical time. Your contribution will help us reach more young people, provide more free and affordable classes, and sustain our mission despite the recent setback. Together, we can build a future where creativity is a right—not a privilege.

Join us in investing in the next generation of artists, makers, and thinkers. Let's work together to ensure that the arts remain a vibrant and essential part of our community.

To learn more or make a contribution, visit www.eliot-school.org/donate.

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The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts inspires lifelong learning in craft and creativity for all. They offer classes to people of all ages in woodworking, sewing and yarn, fiber arts, book arts, drawing, painting, photography, and other crafts and fine arts. They reach thousands of people each year from Boston and beyond.