

## IN SOLIDARITY & RESISTANCE

Union Arts Center, Home of ACT Contemporary Theatre & Seattle Shakespeare Company, stands united in protest against recent Executive Orders that significantly impact arts programming and are a threat to our community.

We have the right, as an arts organization and under the First Amendment, to affirm and support all gender identities and expression, including transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and genderqueer identities. We have the right to provide meaningful support to artists of the global majority and those who have been historically marginalized and encourage all to join us in this effort.

Artistic freedom and expression, the rights of all people including immigrants, members of the trans community, and other crucially important human rights are at great risk. The Trump administration's policies threaten vitally important diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and attack those within our community fighting for racial, social, and gender justice.

Union Arts Center has rejected pursuing National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) funding due to the requirement for applicants to "*not operate any programs promoting 'diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)'*". Union Arts Center is strongly committed to programs and initiatives that further diversity, equity, and inclusion, as part of our core values. This commitment has guided and will continue to guide our decision-making as an organization.

While Union Arts Center does not rely heavily on NEA funding, many theatres and arts organizations do. **This is an open call to artists and theatres in our community to contact us to explore partnering with each other during this time of crisis:** [feedback@unionartscenter.org](mailto:feedback@unionartscenter.org).

Three specific Executive Orders we oppose are:

- [Executive Order](#) on "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions"
- [Executive Order](#) on "Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing"
- [Executive Order](#) on "Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government"

We celebrate the victory of the court ruling in favor of the [ACLU lawsuit](#) filed on behalf of Rhode Island Latino Arts, National Queer Theater, The Theater Offensive, and the Theatre Communications Group, which overruled the NEA gender ideology compliance requirement.

We are in alliance with the hundreds of arts groups across the U.S. that have had NEA grants withdrawn. Continue to contact your [elected officials](#) to demand dedicated and permanent funding for the arts. Point to the [evidence](#) that every dollar invested in the arts sees a four-fold return.

Community is essential. We will continue to resist. We will continue to uphold a welcoming space that embraces diversity of thought, kindness, respect, and courtesy to all.