



# CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious  
and  
Civil Rights*

February 2, 2018

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Dr. Jane Chu  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Chu:

Thank you for your letter of January 31. I would like to address your comments.

The NEA contribution to the New Group may be a small percentage of its total budget, but it remains true that it gets so little money from the private sector that it does not merit review by Charity Navigator. Ergo, it needs public dollars to survive.

I did not know that in 2009 the federal government gave \$50 million to the NEA for the preservation of jobs in the arts. Thanks for the clarification.

Regrettably, your last statement about the grant review process does nothing to alleviate my concerns: grantees that produce anti-Christian plays are obviously not disqualified. Am I to believe that if there were a play that depicted Muhammad the way Jesus is portrayed in "Jerry Springer: The Opera" that it would pass muster?

Moreover, I noticed that while panel members represent "different professions, gender, ethnicity, and age," religious diversity is not included. I hasten to add that having panel members of different religions is hardly a sufficient remedy: What matters most is having morally responsible persons involved in the review process.

This explains why I have asked President Trump to put an end to the NEA practice of funding anti-Christian grantees, exhibitions, and performances. The sensitivity of panel members to the sensibilities of Christians is my paramount concern.

Artistic expressions of anti-Christian bigotry are still expressions of bigotry. And under no circumstances, should Christians be required to pay for them.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.  
President