

file

December 30, 1993

TO: Carol H. Rasco
FROM: Bill Galston
SUBJ: NEA inquiry

I reviewed the attached and decided that NEA should reply. The President might write something along the following lines:

Dear Jerry Noone and Stephen Randolph:

Our mutual friend Rachel passed your letter on to me a few days ago. I read it with great interest and have asked the National Endowment for the Arts to review your program and respond to your inquiry.

Please be assured that my Domestic Policy Council is aware of this matter and will continue to monitor it.

I wish you good luck in your wonderful endeavor, which deserves every chance to survive and flourish.

Sincerely,

WJC

Roz
Prepare or send
to Podesta
whatever the
case. Make sure
Galston gets a
cc of NEA
ltr
to
Noone,
etc.
for
his
files.

Mam
1/3/94

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1993

TO: Jane Alexander, Chair
National Endowment for the Arts

FROM: William A. Galston
Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

The President received this and asked us to pass it on to the NEA for review. He would be pleased if your organization could reply to the authors of the letter in some appropriate manner, whether or not anything immediate and concrete can be done to assist them.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM THE OFFICE OF: **CAROL H. RASCO**
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

TO: *Bill Malston*

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CHR BY: _____

PLEASE REPLY (COPY TO CHR): _____

PLEASE ADVISE BY: _____

LET'S DISCUSS: _____

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: _____

REPLY USING FORM CODE: _____

FILE: _____

RETURN ORIGINAL TO CHR: _____

SCHEDULE: _____

REMARKS:

*Have NEA review per POTUS' request.
If you think NEA should reply directly
to these folks, then prepare draft for
POTUS signature early next week stating
that NEA will reply and cc DPC*

daa Clara

have UET review?

December 20, 1993

get reply - a final answer to us

A

Dear Mr. President and First Lady, Hillary Rodham-Clinton:

Greetings from Nashville, Tennessee. We have asked a great favor of our friend Rachel in passing this information to you and hope that you have not found her impertinent in doing so. We realize that this is a little unorthodox, but could foresee no other time that we might have direct access to the President of the United States and the First Lady.

In August of this year we founded *daa*, *diversified artists advocates*, in an effort to channel the talents and energy of the Nashville arts communities. As artists, it has been obvious to us for quite some time that, short of writing a check to a favorite charity or possibly volunteering for a one-time effort, there was no substantial and on-going way in which we might contribute to the fight against so many of the problems facing our world today.

The work of *daa* is two-fold. Community service projects, which we call the **Adventures in the Arts** series, and concert showcases which will serve as benefits for local organizations. Both of these are described in the enclosed materials. Since August, we have completed two **Adventures in the Arts** workshops for centers in two of the largest project areas in Nashville. We are currently planning our first benefit concert. This concert will take place on January 29, 1994, and the proceeds will go to Nashville CARES, an organization which provides money and services to those who are living with AIDS. As you know, the toll of this disease on the arts community is staggering, prompting us to make this cause the benefactor of our first effort. Dr. Douglas Paschall has graciously arranged for us to use the new facilities of Montgomery Bell Academy, where he is the headmaster, for this showcase.

Support for our organization in these first few months has been good. Many local artists have joined and are excited about the prospects of having an outlet through which they can serve the community that supports them. Several local businesses have donated money and services for the **Adventures in the Arts** programs, and the local media has been kind in covering a relatively unproven organization. However, all of these things do not make it possible, financially, for us to continue the work we have already started, nor fulfill the hopes we have for work in the future.

diversified artists advocates

P. O. Box 110314 Woodbine Station Nashville, TN 37222-0314

(615) 333-6784

daa

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At the outset we realized this would not be an easy undertaking. We both work two jobs to help defray the initial costs of the organization. Although this is necessary, it greatly takes away from the time that we would like to be spending in the development of the project. We have spoken with the National Endowment for the Arts and know that we must be an established organization for no less than three years before any aid from this agency could be possible. We have likewise contacted local arts endowment programs, who have similar guidelines. The purpose of this letter and the following information concerning our organization is a plea for help. Perhaps there are other agencies of which we do not know. Perhaps we could receive support from an educational agency and are unaware of this. Perhaps we qualify for a special grant fund set up to assist organizations such as ours. These are things we do not know and have tried to ascertain, but to no avail.

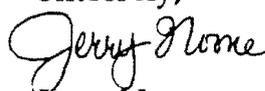
We believe with all our hearts that the work that *daa* has done and wants to continue to do is worthwhile. The look of accomplishment on an underprivileged child's face when he is performing for his friends tells us this. The excitement he shows when receiving a book at the end of the workshop tells us this. And the question, "Are you coming back tomorrow," certainly tells us this.

We want to find a way that we can continue this effort full-time. We are not looking to get rich off this venture, (as artists we have learned to live on little), but merely want the effort to afford us a nominal salary so that we can devote ourselves solely to this work. It is our hope that as you look over the enclosed materials, you too will see the good in what we are doing and that you might have a way in which you can help.

We believe in the future of children and the future of this country. We know that education, of the mind as well as the spirit, is crucial to that future. And we believe that any effort to conquer the social problems of today will only heighten the chances of a brighter tomorrow. These are concerns which we know that you share and are evident in the administration of your roles as our leaders.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and the materials about our organization. Any help that you could give us in any area would be greatly appreciated. We can be reached at (615) 333-6784.

Sincerely,



Jerry Noone
President



Stephen K. Randolph
Vice President

Enclosures

diversified artists advocates

P. O. Box 110314 Woodbine Station Nashville, TN 37222-0314
(615) 333-6784

daa
diversified artist advocates

diversified artists advocates is a nonprofit organization which makes use of the artistic community to raise not only money, but awareness for some of society's most difficult challenges. Be it the fight against AIDS, child abuse, or the plight of the homeless, to name a few, *daa* gives voice to the artist allowing us to give not only beauty, but hope to the world around us.

Established in August 1993 by co-founders Gerald M. Noone and Stephen K. Randolph, *daa* will endeavor, through biannual benefits and community efforts, to educate as well as help meet the financial responsibilities of those organizations created to face today's social dilemmas. The artists and their affiliates -- from painters to actors, dancers to the technical staff -- will organize and execute these events.

daa gives the dance and theatre communities the opportunity to donate financial support, through the use of their art, to organizations dedicated to helping society. These artists, often without the means to make personal donation but with no less the desire, will use *daa* events and the funds they raise to represent their contribution to people who are in need.

Both Jerry and Stephen, who are active in Nashville's artistic community, conceived *daa* as their chance to give back to those who have supported them over the years and to give supports to those who have been less fortunate than they in this respect.

For more information call:

daa - 333-6784

Adventures in the Arts

The **Adventures in the Arts** series was conceived by *daa*, to educate and expose children to the arts, giving them one-on-one experience in the hands of established artists. Through repeat workshops and a diversity of art and artists, it is our goal to lay a ground work of an understanding of the arts, and by building with each return visit, light a spark and inspire the courage for some of these children to follow their dream of a career in the arts.

The **Adventure in the Arts** series will be conducted primarily in government subsidized housing areas where children's dreams are a rarity and the hope of fulfillment sometimes a dream itself. The workshops themselves will take place in safe, familiar surroundings. Many of these communities have centers or shelters which provide, on a daily basis, a secure atmosphere to which the children can turn. We will be taking our workshop into these centers.

The workshops themselves revolve around the two aspects of the arts which the co-founders know best; dance and theatre. Co-founder Jerry Noone has worked extensively in the field of dance (see bios). He will conduct the dance portion of the workshop choreographing a familiar children's story, instructing the children in the art of interpretation through dance. Co-founder Stephen K. Randolph, with his theatre experience (see bios), will work, through the use of improvisation, to bring to life the stories that children know and love. Other guest artists from these same fields will also serve as instructors throughout the day. The exposure to many different artists and personalities will punctuate the views of the co-founders that creativity and a diversity of ideas are essential to the growth of an artist. It is their desire that, through community support and funding, they will be able to expand this project to include not only dance and theatre, but many other aspects of the arts world as well. For example, painting, pottery, and sculpting, to name a few.

The **Adventures in the Arts** series is a day-long event which is culminated in a performance by the children and guest artists at the end of the day. As important to the program as the actual learning process, the performance by the children helps to build self-esteem through the demonstration of the knowledge gained during the course of the the day. It also serves as a release, and the acknowledgement of applause and praise for a job well done can only heighten the sense of accomplishment that these children feel. The performance by the guest artists, for the children, will also show the direct application of things learned during the day. It is important that the children associate the performer with the person they have worked with during the day, showing them that artists live all around them, and that aspirations to be like these artists are not out of their reach.

Adventures in the Arts

It is our goal for the **Adventures in the Arts** series to become an established program. We plan to set the workshops up on a rotation basis using four centers, such as the Martha O'Bryan Boys and Girls Club in East Nashville. Each center would host six workshops during the calendar year. Through the use of limited centers and return workshops, we believe that our program can be more effective. The continuity of the workshop leaders will help build the trust needed to ensure the return of the participants, and the diversity of the performing artists will ensure the year-long education, yet varying experience, of the same participants.

Other important parts of this program are not easily attained. The gift of the book which each child uses in their workshop is vital to the success of our program. It not only serves as a memento of the day, but more importantly, helps to promote reading, an essential skill in today's society. Because of this elements import, we purchased these books ourselves for our first workshop. As a foundling organization, this was a major expense and one that we would like to have underwritten in the future. We feel strongly that this small token will have a lasting impact long after the workshops are over, and would like to find a way to maintain the giving of these books, through personal sponsorship or funding.

Another element which is vital to our success is the lunch with which we provided each child. Many of these children receive breakfast and lunch through their schools Monday through Friday, but as our workshop takes place on Saturday, this is not an option. For our first workshop we purchased and bagged lunches for forty children, consisting of a ham and cheese sandwich, an apple, a bag of chips, and a canned drink. We are currently seeking help in this area through the food service industry, as we are without the resources to provide this on a continuing basis.

As a token of the day, we had printed and distributed to the children, T-shirts with our **Adventures in the Arts** logo on the front and the name on the center on the back. Although not essential, we feel that by giving the children these shirts we will be creating a group identity, a club of sorts, and foster the return of the participants time after time. It is also our belief that these shirts could help generate interest in the program within the community. Again, this is a great expense, and funding dollars could be greatly used in this area.

The **Adventure in the Arts** series is a worthwhile effort by *daa*, involving the local art community, to help enrich the lives of children. It is our goal , through the repeat experiences of this program, to recognize interest and talent in the arts, and hopefully, to assist in the fulfillment of the dreams of these children.

daa *Benefit Concerts*

From the time of its conception, *daa* has had but one goal; the use of local artists in the fight against some of societies most devastating challenges. As artists themselves, the co-founders of *daa* realize that an artists most valuable assets, time and talent, can be used to benefit others. This only left one question: how?

The answer to this question came in the form of a showcase, done biannually, with a benefactor chosen for each showcase. The benefactors will be chosen based on the kind of good that they are doing for the community themselves. Through helping these organizations, which are already established to meet certain needs of the community, *daa* feels it can do the most good.

The first showcase, a dance concert at Montgomery Bell Academy in January 1994, benefits Nashville CARES. This concert will show the work of dance organizations in Nashville as well as spotlighting local choreographers. The performers in the concert will also be local artists, volunteering their time and talents to make the evening a success. Artists from other areas, such as costumers and technicians, have also consented to give of their time for this worthwhile event.

As the name *diversified artists advocates* indicates, these showcases will not be limited to dance concerts, but as interest in the work continues to grow, can include other areas of the arts such as theatre, performing artists or opera.

Each showcase will be planned separately and the content will be chosen based on the availability and interest of artists in the different sectors of the art community.

daa is proud to have embarked on this positive and productive venture, and will be looking not only to the art community for resources, but to the private sector as well, for support in helping to make this a successful undertaking for *daa*, thereby helping those organizations which it chooses to support.

About the Co-Founders

Gerald M. Noone, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, started his dance training at the age of five. He worked as a principal dancer for the Ballet Theatre of Pennsylvania under the direction of Mary L. Hepner for seven years before moving to Nashville Ballet where he became a principal dancer. He was a frequent Guest Artist with the "Carlisle Project" and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ensemble. He was also a member of the 1986 United States Team at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. Retiring from his career as a dancer in 1992, he turned his interest to teaching and choreography. He is teaching for Vanderbilt University's dance school and recently won Best Overall Choreography for his ballet "Funeral for a Friend" at the 1993 Panoply Arts Festival in Huntsville, Alabama.

Stephen K. Randolph, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, began his career in the arts by designing for, and performing in, theatre productions in high school. He graduated from David Lipscomb University in 1985 and began work as a local artist shortly thereafter. He has performed with the Tennessee Repertory Theatre and has worked with Rave Revue Productions, designed sets for Belmont University, and designed costumes and sets for the Capitol Arts Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has a special interest in children and has conducted theatre workshops for them throughout the south. Currently Stephen is a free-lance artist and graphic designer, working for both the private and public sectors.