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## **NEA Statement on the President's FY2011 Budget Request to Congress**

*Washington, DC* – Today, the President released the details for his FY2011 budget request to Congress. This included a \$161.3 million request for the National Endowment for the Arts, which is the same level the President requested last year. This proposed budget maintains the NEA's areas of grantmaking – Access to Artistic Excellence, Learning in the Arts, and Partnerships – and it also includes \$5 million in proposed "Our Town" funding, in recognition of the role that the arts can play in economic revitalization and in creating livable, sustainable communities.

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, "At the NEA, we know that art works. Today, I am visiting Miami's Wynwood Design District to see what happens when you bring artists, arts organizations, and businesses into the center of town. Here in Wynwood, organizations like the Design and Architecture Senior High School, the Little Haiti Cultural Center, the David Castillo Gallery, and Locust Projects are helping to create social cohesion, increase civic engagement, inspire young people, and strengthen the economy.

"I look forward to continuing the NEA history of strengthening the arts and the communities they inhabit by investing in them through our direct grants, as well as through our partnerships with the state, regional, and local arts agencies. I also look forward to testifying before Congress in mid-April, when I will discuss the details of the proposed 'Our Town' funding."