

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Patrice Walker Powell
Acting Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Chairman Powell,

We are writing to express our outrage that the NEA is using taxpayer money to support objectionable and obscene movies, plays and exhibitions. The NEA received \$50 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to distribute grants to art organizations. However, much of this taxpayer money is being used to fund art projects that many Americans find offensive. The fundamental question is why is the federal government supporting artists that the taxpayers have refused to support in the open market place?

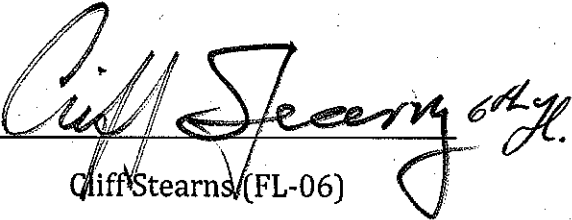
Here are a few examples of the kind of art the NEA has spent the stimulus tax dollars on:


- The NEA provided a \$50,000 grant to the Frameline film house, which recently screened *Thundercrack*, "the world's only underground kinky art porno horror film, complete with four men, three women and a gorilla."
- CounterPULSE received a \$25,000 grant to fund the weekly production of *Perverts Put Out*, a "long-running pansexual performance series" that invites guests to "join your fellow pervs for some explicit, twisted fun."
- A \$25,000 grant was given to Jess Curtis/Gravity, Inc, whose most recent works is the Symmetry Project where nude couples, including children, are mounted on each other in various poses.

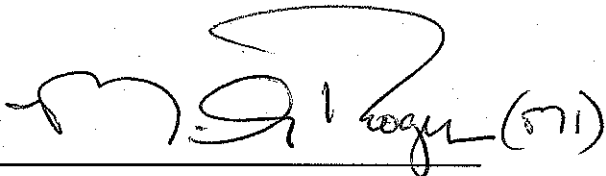
Our intent is not to censor artistic freedom. Nevertheless, we are concerned that taxpayers are stuck paying for projects that are antithetical to our values and culture. These programs represent abject art. If non-profit art organizations want to sponsor these kinds of programs, then they should seek private funding and not rely on the federal government. If such private money cannot be raised, then perhaps such art has no place in our society.

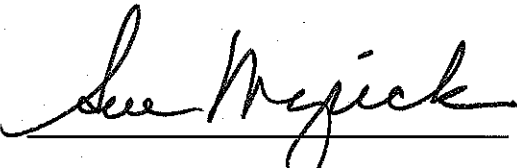
There is no justification for using tax dollars on these abhorrent projects. As such, this money should be immediately returned. Please provide us with the criteria you used in distributing these grants and what steps you are taking, if any, to ensure that tax dollars are not being used on such repulsive art projects. We look forward to your prompt response. With kind regards, we are

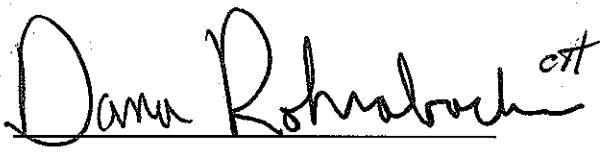
Sincerely,

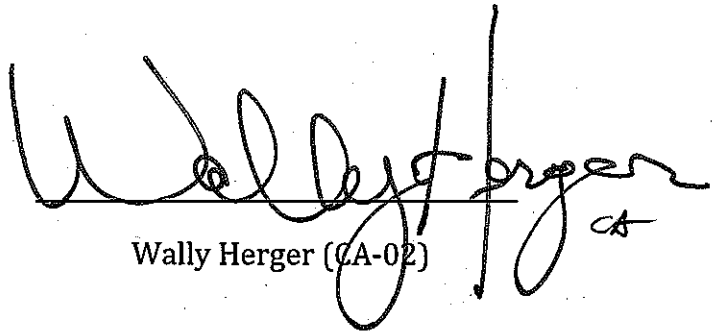

Cliff Stearns (FL-06)

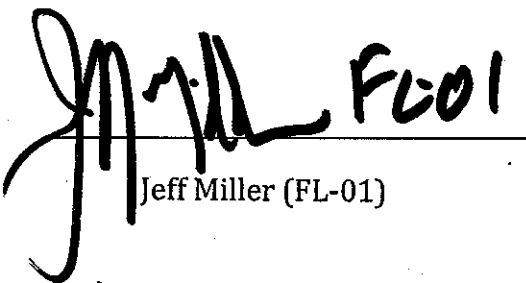

Joe Pitts (PA-16)

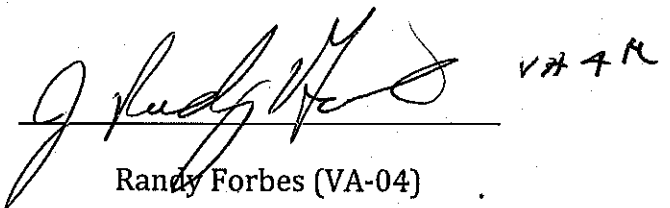

Mike Rogers (MI-08)

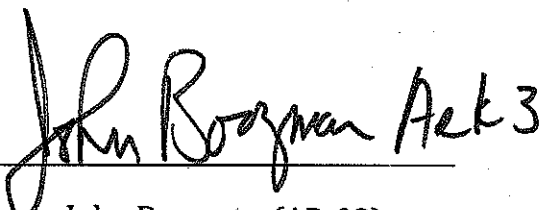

Sue Myrick (NC-09)



Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46)

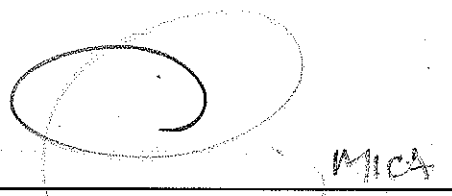

Wally Herger (CA-02)

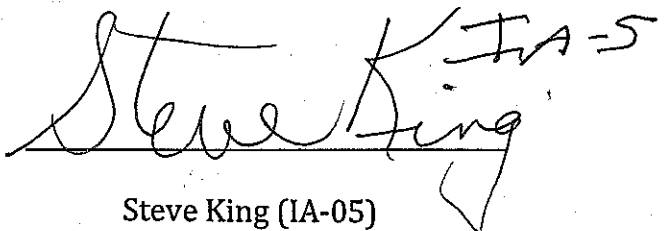

Jeff Miller (FL-01)

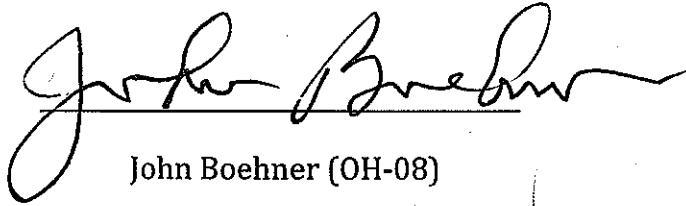

Randy Forbes (VA-04)


John Boozman (AR-03)

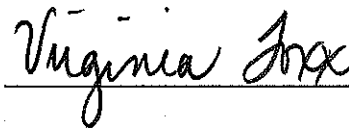

David Reichert (WA-08)


John Mica (FL-07)

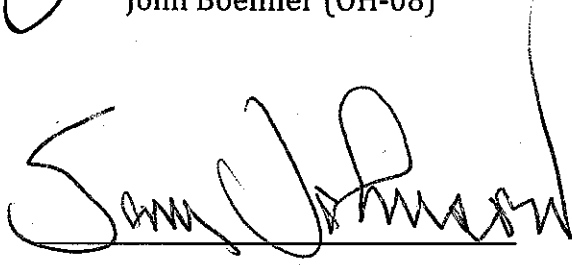

Steve King (IA-05)



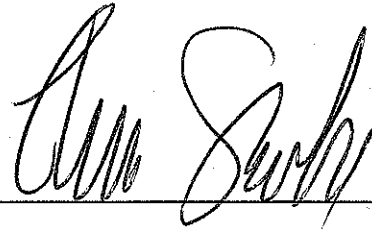
John Boehner (OH-08)



Virginia Foxx (NC-05)



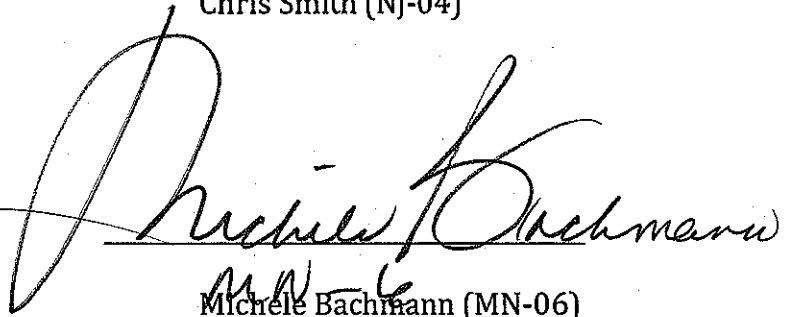
Sam Johnson (TX-03)



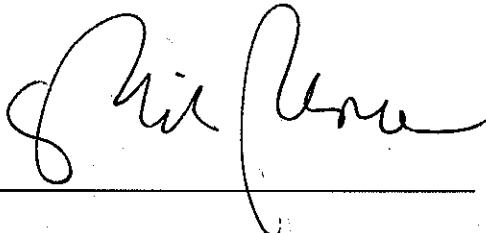
Chris Smith (NJ-04)



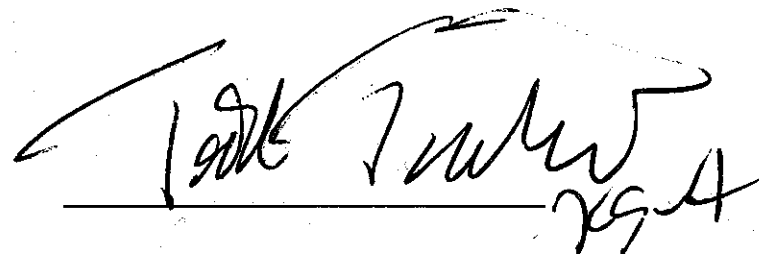
John Carter (TX-31)



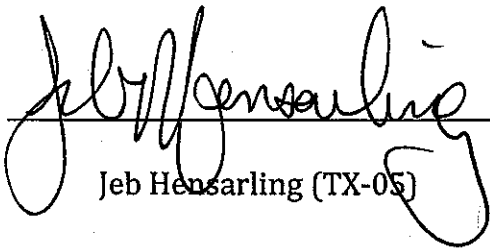
Michele Bachmann (MN-06)



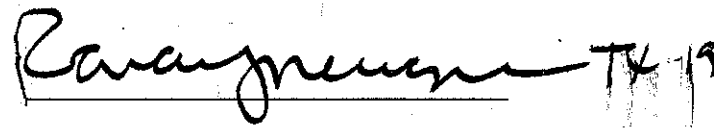
Mike Pence (IN-06)



Todd Tiahart (KS-04)



Jeb Hensarling (TX-05)



Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)



Louie Gohmert (TX-01)



Todd Akin (MO-02)

Frank Wolf

Frank Wolf (VA-10)

Joe Pitts PA-16

Joe Pitts (PA-16)

John Shadegg AZ-3

John Shadegg (AZ-03)

Roy Blunt

Roy Blunt (MO-07)

Ed Whitfield

Ed Whitfield (KY-01)

Kenny Marchant TX-24

Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones (NC-03)

Jack Kingston

Jack Kingston (GA-01)

John Fleming MD LA-04

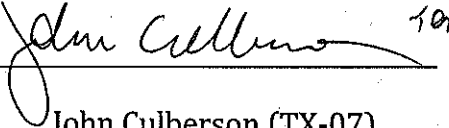
John Fleming (LA-04)

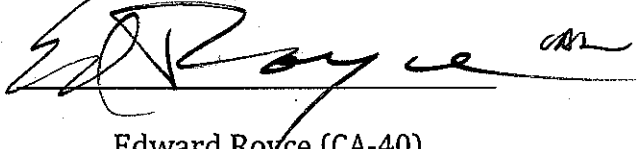
Roscoe Bartlett

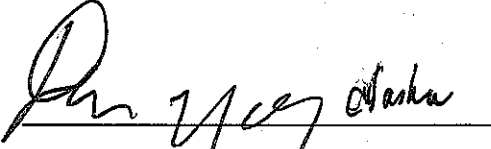
Roscoe Bartlett (MD-06)

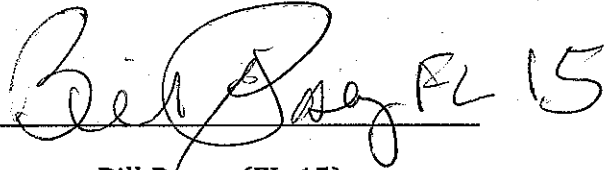
Jean Schmidt OH-2

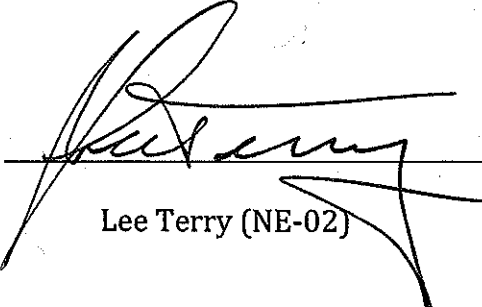
Jean Schmidt (OH-02)

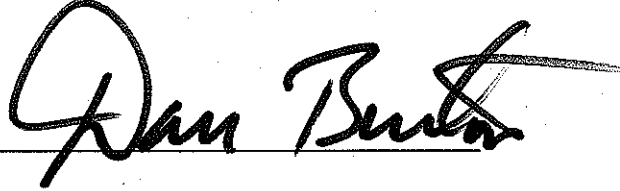
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John Culberson (TX-07)



Edward Royce (CA-40)

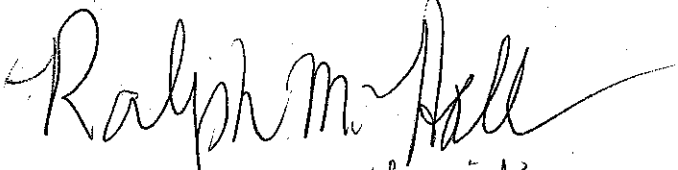

Don Young (AK-At Large)

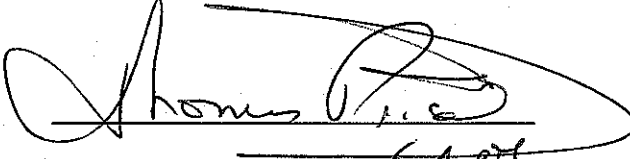

Bill Pease (FL-15)

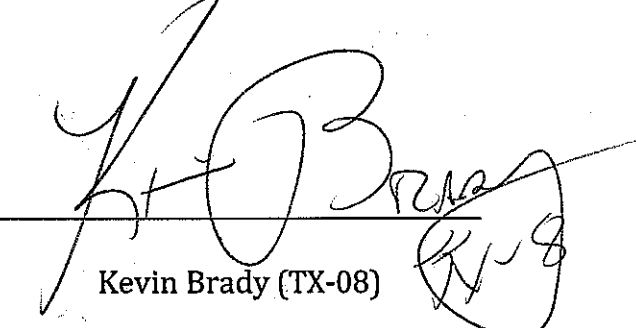

Lee Terry (NE-02)



Dan Burton (IN-05)



Donald Manzullo (IL-16)

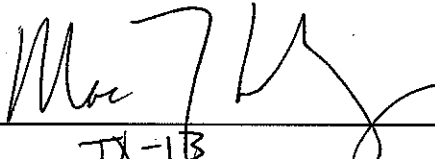

Ralph Hall (TX-04) ^{2nd dist.}


Tom Price (GA-06)



Kevin Brady (TX-08)


Joe Wilson (SC-02)

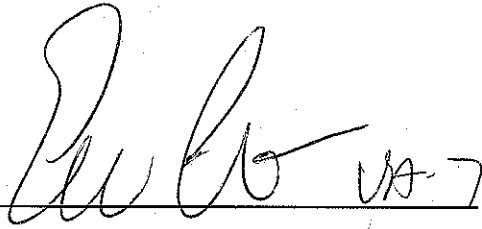

Tom McClintock (CA-04)



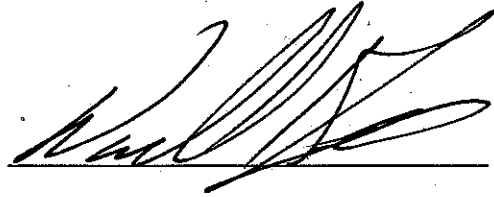
TX-13
Mac Thornberry (TX-13)



Pete Olson (TX-22)



Eric Cantor (VA-07)



Darrell Issa (CA-49)
