



# CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS II

*Part of the Federal Resource Guide Series for Arts Organizations*

## SNAPSHOT

Resource Guide 10  
2008

### Legislation:

Funding earmarks can be attached to most appropriations bills. Earmarks are generally housed within one of the departments or agencies contained in the particular bill. Earmarks can also be attached to multiyear authorizing legislation.

### Type of Assistance:

Federal funding for an infinite variety of programs.

### Who May Apply:

In effect, members of Congress, on behalf of constituents, may apply. The process of applying to Congress for direct funding is difficult and complex, differing substantially from applying to federal agencies. Successful seekers of earmarks usually need professional assistance in working with their member of Congress.

### Activities Funded:

Nearly any type of project or program, from infrastructure to services, may be funded.

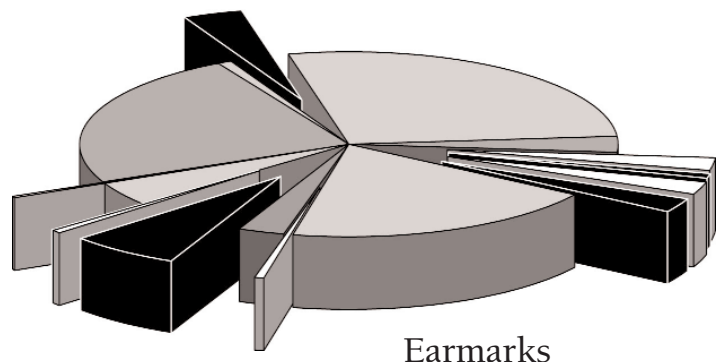
### FY 2008 Earmarks to Cultural Organizations:

We have identified cultural earmarks in excess of \$41 million. However, earmarks are sometimes disguised, making the exact total difficult to calculate.

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### FY 2008 Federal Budget



## BACKGROUND

An earmark is a sum of money that, upon request by one or more representatives or senators, Congress directs to a specific project such as a building, a transportation project, or programs and services. Earmarks have experienced enormous growth in recent years, and there is presently a political backlash against them, with reform legislation now under consideration. Nevertheless, even if curtailed and reformed, earmarks are unlikely to be eliminated altogether.

Recent examples of earmarks to cultural organizations include: \$170,000 to the Young Art Children's Museum for the Global Village Project in Davie, FL; \$800,000 to the City of Charleston for planning, design, and construction of its International African American Museum; and \$150,000 to the Louis Armstrong House Museum for design and construction of a visitors center in Flushing, NY. Of course, cultural organizations are beneficiaries of only a small percentage of total earmarks in any given year. It has been calculated that earmarks in FY 2008 totaled around \$9 billion.

Individual earmarks can be quite large, running into the millions.

Earmarks are often called “pork barrel spending.” The news media usually belittles them, except when they are for projects that readers and viewers support—such as rebuilding a local highway, refurbishing a beloved cultural institution, or providing a needed service.

What makes earmarks different from a typical National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant?

- a) Individual earmarks can be quite large, running into the millions, and corporate or government earmarks (such as the “Bridge to Nowhere”) can be larger still.
- b) Earmarks do not face peer review, but are scrutinized by members Congress and congressional staff.
- c) In effect, a member of Congress applies on the constituent's behalf.

What makes earmarks similar to a typical NEA grant?

- a) An agency will still administer the money, and the recipients still have to comply with administrative and reporting requirements.
- b) There is still a competitive process, but it does not include peer review.
- c) Political considerations may influence decision-making.

There are no earmarks at the NEA. That is, Congress does not direct funding to specific projects; it does not say, “Give \$1 million of NEA funding to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.” That decision is left up to the NEA.

## BACKGROUND (CONT.)

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Other agencies, by contrast, are heavily earmarked. We have found earmarks for cultural organizations in the departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Interior, Commerce, Defense, and other agencies.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in particular has become the favored place for museum earmarks. In fact, the amount of funding that Congress earmarked through IMLS in 2005 nearly equaled the amount that it gave to the agency to distribute through competitive grants.

The Department of Education is also a favorite place for cultural earmarks, with symphonies, theaters, museums, and other cultural resources reaping substantial sums. These earmarks are usually project/program-specific (e.g., \$100,000 for an afterschool program in a particular town).

We found \$11 million in cultural earmarks in the FY 2008 HUD bill, which has been perennially favored by Congress as a site for projects that combine the arts with community development. A few examples are: \$170,000 for renovations to the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Brooklyn, NY; \$ 500,000 for construction of a children's gallery exhibit for the Michigan Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington, MI; \$300,000 to the Wattstar Theater for construction and buildout of a theater and educational facility in Los Angeles, CA; \$200,000 to The Hunting and Fishing Museum of Pennsylvania for development and to create interactive, educational, and historical exhibits; \$100,000 for the African American History Foundation for planning, design, and construction of a museum in Nashville, TN; and \$200,000 for the National Association of Latino Art and Culture for renovation of the Buena Vista Gardens building to create community arts space in San Antonio, TX.

The Department of Education is also a favorite place for cultural earmarks, with symphonies, theaters, museums, and others reaping substantial sums.

Defense is the largest single department, and it has a few cultural earmarks as well. Some might be expected; the D-Day Museum in New Orleans was developed with an earmark. Others are more surprising; the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey was built with about \$10 million in defense funds in the early 1990s. Although that earmark faced considerable criticism, its sponsors justified the spending by drawing a parallel between the hi-tech skills needed in the military and the hi-tech experiences that the science center would deliver to young people.

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## THE EARMARK PROCESS

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Earmarks are allotted through a formal process controlled by the House and Senate appropriations committees. All individual members of Congress are allowed to submit "project requests," usually to the various subcommittees, which demand paperwork and enforce strict deadlines. The subcommittee staffs work to ensure that grants only go for projects that are relevant to their specific subcommittee. It would be a nonstarter, for example, to ask for an earmark to build a city utilities plant through the Department of Education. Unlike applying for grants through a federal agency, political considerations may apply, such as a member's seniority or whether a member sits on the appropriations committee. Like applying for grants, the member of Congress must prioritize many earmark requests from constituents. It is not unusual for a senator to receive 1,000 requests annually.



## THE EARMARK PROCESS (CONT.)

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Generally, constituents approach a member of Congress and ask for his or her help in securing funding. Because the member must submit the project request, the process moves forward only if the member approves. Because the deadlines for these requests fall early in the year, it is necessary for constituents to begin working with their own member's office many months in advance.

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Most constituents use professional assistance—lobbyists who specialize in earmarks—to keep track of this complicated and technical process.

Following is a list of earmarks that we were able to identify in the FY 2008 appropriations bills. Please be aware that not all earmarks are easily identifiable. For example, the actual legislative language might read: "To build a parking lot at the corner of 5th Street and G Street in Washington, DC." Without knowing what is already at the corner of 5th and G, it is impossible to determine whether the new structure is, for example, a municipal lot or one that is connected to a cultural institution, such as a museum or theater.

Finally, with a new majority elected to the 110th Congress in 2007, the earmark process has become a lightning rod in the debate about federal spending. After a series of alleged high-profile abuses of lobbying practices, Congress committed itself to reform the earmark process to reflect a more transparent relationship between those seeking earmarks and those elected officials who sponsor them. Similar legislation in both chambers provided procedural guidelines for public disclosure of earmark requests that include:

- A list of earmarks in all legislation, amendment, conference report, or report language
- The disclosure, in writing, of the name and address of the intended recipient and the purpose of the earmark
- The certification that a member had no financial interest in the project (The Senate version provides that neither a senator nor the senator's immediate family have any financial interest.)

These changes, combined with the new majority's campaign promise to reduce earmarks as part of their long-term fiscal policy, led to an overall decline from FY2007's earmark total from \$16 billion to \$9 billion.

## FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The following arts and cultural projects were earmarked by Congress to receive more than \$4.9 million of FY 2008 appropriations through the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Education.

American Ballet Theater for educational activities	New York, NY	\$146,000
Berks County Intermediate Unit for music education programs	Reading, PA	\$87,000
Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts for arts education programs	Hartford, CT	\$97,000
Canton Symphony Orchestra Association for the Northeast Ohio Arts Education Collaborative, including teacher training and curriculum	Canton, OH	\$97,000
Carnegie Hall for its National Music Education program	New York, NY	\$390,000
City of Pawtucket School Department for the Jacqueline Walsh School of the performing and Visual Arts, which may include equipment	Pawtucket, RI	\$292,000
Delta Arts Alliance for in-school and after school arts education programs	Cleveland, MS	\$97,000
Erskine College for an elementary and secondary school arts initiative	Due West, SC	\$243,000
Envision Schools for the Metropolitan Arts and Technology High School which may include equipment	San Francisco, CA	\$243,000
Fairhope Center for the Arts, for arts education programs including purchase of equipment	Bay Minette, AL	\$199,000
Hamilton Wings for arts education programs	Elgin, IL	\$146,000
Jacob Burns Film Center for education programs	Pleasantville, NY	\$219,000
Jazz at Lincoln Center for music education programs	New York, NY	\$390,000
Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum for curriculum development and purchase of equipment	Baton Rouge, LA	\$195,000
Lower East Side Conservancy for education programs and outreach	New York, NY	\$219,000
Maine Alliance for Arts Education for the Complete Education for Rural Students program	Augusta, ME	\$97,000
Minnesota Humanities Commission to implement curricula and classroom resources on Native Americans	St. Paul, MN	\$487,000
North Carolina Symphony for musical and artistic residency activities for elementary and secondary students	Raleigh, NC	\$170,000
Oakland School for the Arts for educational equipment	Oakland, CA	\$409,000
Polynesian Voyaging Society for cultural education programs	Honolulu, HI	\$146,000
Provo City to expand education programs at the Arts Center	Provo, UT	\$48,000
Queens Theater in the Park for a project to provide youth with career planning and development in the performing arts industry	Flushing, NY	\$146,000
San Bernardino Boys and Girls Club to expand programs that are available in education, health and the arts	San Bernardino, CA	\$229,000
School at Jacob's Pillow for the development of youth cultural and educational programs	Beckett, MA	\$146,000
Springfield Public School District No 19 for Academy of Arts and Academics	Springfield, OH	\$97,000
Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center to expand education outreach programs	Virginia Beach, VA	\$48,000
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$4,937,000</b>



## FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The following arts and cultural projects were earmarked by Congress to receive more than \$11.5 million of FY 2008 appropriations through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

African American History Foundation for design and construction of a museum	Nashville, TN	\$100,000
Allentown Art Museum of the Lehigh Valley for expansion	Allentown, PA	\$250,000
Alpine Heritage Preservation for renovation and buildout of the historic opera house	Thomas , WV	\$200,000
Amherst Cinema Arts Center Inc. for acquisition, renovation and buildout of an arts center as part of area redevelopment	Amherst, MA	\$265,000
Anderson Arts Center for renovation of the Anderson Arts Warehouse Facility	Anderson, SC	\$100,000
Ark Memorial Foundation for construction of a national Creative Arts Center	Laramie, WY	\$150,000
Audie Murphy/ American Cotton Museum for construction of a memorial and building	Greenville, TX	\$100,000
Barrington Stage Company for renovation and buildout of the Berkshire Music Hall and Octagon House	Pittsfield, MA	\$275,000
Black Ensemble Theater for planning, design, and construction of the theater	Chicago, IL	\$200,000
Brooklyn Children's Museum for renovation and construction of the museum	Brooklyn, NY	\$170,000
Calvin College for renovation of a historic building in downtown Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids, MI	\$400,000
Carlisle Regional Performing Arts Center for renovation of the Carlisle Theater	Carlisle, PA	\$100,000
Chicago Parks District for renovation of the historic Theater on the Lake	Chicago, IL	\$700,000
City of Belliflower for construction of the Los Angeles County Fire Museum	Belliflower, CA	\$500,000
City of Edmonds for renovation of the Edmonds Center for the Arts	Edmonds, WA	\$150,000
City of Evansville for renovation and buildout of the historic Alhambra Theatre	Evansville, IN	\$200,000
City of Hearne for construction of a visitors center and museum for the World War II POW Camp	Hearne, TX	\$250,000
City of Lauderdale Lakes for renovation and construction of a new educational and cultural addition to the library	Lauderdale Lakes, FL	\$200,000
City of Romney for continued renovation and adaptive reuse of the Coca Cola Bottling Plant as a cultural and arts center	Romney, WV	\$100,000
Dunbar Coalition for construction of the Dunbar Project Youth Cultural Center	Tucson, AZ	\$250,000
City of Wichita for redevelopment of the Dunbar Theater	Wichita, KS	\$300,000
Cypress Creek Fine Art Association for construction of the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts	Spring, TX	\$100,000
Florida Southern College for construction of a library to house historic documents of Frank Lloyd Wright	Lakeland, FL	\$200,000
Focus on Renewal for construction of the Sto-Rox Cultural Arts Center	McKees Rocks, PA	\$100,000
Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum for completion of construction of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum	Hatteras, NC	\$150,000
Houston Fire Museum for construction of an Education Center	Houston, TX	\$250,000
Hudson Opera House Inc. for renovation of the Historic Hudson Opera House Arts Community Center	Hudson, NY	\$125,000
Huntsville Museum of Art for facility renovation and buildout of the museum as part of the redevelopment of downtown Huntsville	Huntsville, AL	\$200,000
Lakeview Museum for planning and construction of the museum	Peoria, IL	\$100,000
Lineville Downtown Redevelopment Authority for renovation of the theater for economic and community purposes	Lineville, AL	\$200,000



FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (CONT.)

Louis Armstrong House Museum for construction of a visitors center	Flushing, NY	\$150,000
Lynchburg Academy of Fine Arts for renovations to the Academy of Music	Lynchburg, VA	\$250,000
Mariner's Museum for promoting development and tourism related to the USS Monitor Center	Newport News, VA	\$100,000
Mayfair Community Development Corporation for buildout of the Devon Theatre of Performing Arts as part of a redevelopment plan	Philadelphia, PA	\$150,000
Michigan Holocaust Memorial Center for the construction of the Children's Gallery exhibit	Farmington Hills, MI	\$500,000
Municipality of Guarbo for construction of a recreational and cultural center	Gurabo, PR	\$100,000
Munto Dance Theater for construction of a cultural arts facility	Chicago, IL	\$250,000
National Association of Latino Art and Culture for renovation of the Buena Vista Gardens building and property to create a community arts space	San Antonio, TX	\$250,000
National Forest Recreation Association for construction of a National Mule and Packers Museum	Woodlake, CA	\$50,000
Olympic Theater Arts for renovation and buildout of a community theater	Sequim, WA	\$100,000
Players of Utica for construction and buildout of a community theater	New Hartford, NY	\$100,000
Pregories Theater for renovation and buildout of the theater	Bronx, NY	\$75,000
Renaissance Art Center, Inc. for renovations to the historic theater	Rupert, ID	\$150,000
Rialto Square Theater for repairs to the theater	Joliet, IL	\$100,000
Spanish Speaking Unity Council for renovation and construction of a facility for the Fruitvale Cultural and Performing Arts Center	Oakland, CA	\$200,000
"Strand Theater Performing Arts Center for restoration of the 1924 Vaudeville Theater to create a performing arts center"	Plattsburgh, NY	\$100,000
The Blirstown Historic Preservation Commission for renovation of a historic structure into an education center and museum	Blirstown, NJ	\$50,000
The Hunting and Fishing Museum of Pennsylvania to create interactive, educational, and historical exhibits for the main museum building	Tionesta, PA	\$200,000
The Lincoln Museum for expansion and renovation of the museum	Hodgenville, KY	\$100,000
Town of Millinocket for the design of the Penobscot Indian Cultural Center	Millinocket, ME	\$250,000
Town of South Hill for renovations to the historical Colonial Theater	South Hill, VA	\$300,000
Trinity Repertory Company for renovation and construction of Lederer Theater	Providence, RI	\$250,000
Tri-State Center for the Arts for renovation and buildout of the arts facility	Sharon, CT	\$100,000
Tubman African American Museum for the construction of a new facility	Macon, GA	\$200,000
Warner Theater for renovation, construction, and buildout of the theater	Torrington, CT	\$250,000
Wattstar Theater for construction of a theater and educational facility in Watts	Los Angeles, CA	\$300,000
Wayne Theater Alliance for renovations for the Wayne Theater	Waynesboro, VA	\$300,000
Western Mining and Railroad Museum for construction of an addition to the museum to improve accessibility.	Helper, UT	\$150,000
Woodbridge Township for construction of a Woodbridge Historical Museum	Woodbridge Twp, NJ	\$50,000
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$11,510,000</b>



FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (CONT.)

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City of Buffalo NY for the renovation of the Buffalo Urban Arts Center Post Office Museum to complete renovation of the historic Post Office in downtown Las Vegas to a museum on local history	Buffalo, NY	\$200,000
City of Suffolk to renovate and restore the Phoenix Bank of Nansemoind Building for purposes of a museum	Las Vegas, NV	\$200,000
Downtown Redevelopment/ Performing Arts Center for redevelopment	Suffolk, VA	\$120,000
Lakeview Museum for construction of the museum which will promote economic development and tourism in downtown Peoria	Temple, TX	\$140,000
Maine State Music Theatre to complete the renovation of rehearsal and office space in the newly acquired facility	Peoria, IL	\$250,000
Mohawk Theater Restoration to assist in the renovation of the Mohawk Theater and in redevelopment of downtown North Adams	Brunswick, ME	\$250,000
National Tropical Botanical Garden to construct a Native Hawaiian Community Learning Center	North Adams, MA	\$200,000
Native American Cultural and Educational Authority for the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum	Lalaheo, Kaua'I, Hawaii	\$200,000
Penobscot Theatre Company to renovate the Bangor Opera House	Oklahoma City, OK	\$140,000
Southern West Virginia Multicultural Museum and Community Center for the establishment of a multicultural museum and community center	Bangor, ME	\$150,000
Cuban American Historical Museum at Miami Dade College Freedom Tower	Beckley, WV	\$200,000
City of Charleston for design, planning, and buildout of the City of Charleston's International African American Museum	Miami Dade College, FL	\$350,000
	Charleston, SC	\$800,000
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$3,200,000</b>

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# FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

The following arts and cultural projects were earmarked by Congress to receive more than \$18 million of FY 2008 appropriations through the U.S. Department of Interior.

Booker T. Washington National Monument	Virginia	\$100,000
National Vothing Rights Interpretive Center	Selma, AL	\$500,000
National Law Enforcement Memorial	DC	\$750,000
Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts	HI	\$500,000
Soutwest Pennsylvavia Heritage Preservation Commission	PA	\$1,200,000
Lane House Theater	Eureka Springs, AR	\$150,000
Oroville Historic State Theater	CA	\$200,000
Grand Opera House	Wilmington, DE	\$250,000
Historic Wilson Theater	Rupert, ID	\$200,000
St. Joseph's College Theater Renovation	Rensselaer, IN	\$100,000
Missouri Theater	Columbia, MO	\$500,000
Maverick Concert Hall Presevation	NY	\$150,000
Embassy Theater	Burnham, PA	\$250,000
Philidelphia Art Museum Exterior Façade	PA	\$100,000
Polish American Cultural Center	Philadelphia, PA	\$125,000
Carnegie Library	Darlington, SC	\$150,000
Grand Opera House	Dell Rapids, SD	\$250,000
Granbury Historic Opera House	TX	\$100,000
USS Arizona Memorial	HI	\$4,545,000
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis Arch	MO	\$1,500,000
Benjamin Franklin Memorial	PA	\$1,500,000
Flight 93 National Memorial	PA	\$5,000,000
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$18,120,000</b>



## FY 2008 EARMARKS THROUGH THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM & LIBRARY SCIENCES

Alaska Native Heritage Center for a partnership with Koahnic Broadcasting for a Native Values project	Anchorage, AK	\$243,000
America's Black Holocaust Museum for exhibits and education programs, which may include acquisition of interactive media center kiosks.	Milwaukee, WI	\$73,000
American Jazz Museum for exhibits, programs, and an archival project	Kansas City, MO	\$312,000
American West Heritage Center for the Lifelong Learning Initiative	Wellsville, UT	\$195,000
Armory Center for the Arts for educational programming	Pasadena, CA	\$73,000
Bellevue Arts Museum	Bellevue, WA	\$487,000
Bibliographical Society of America for the First Ladies Museum for the First White House Library Catalogue	Canton, OH	\$126,000
Bishop Museum to provide Filipino cultural education	Honolulu, HI	\$243,000
Des Moines Art Center for exhibits	Des Moines, IA	\$292,000
Everson Museum of Art for expansion of the Visual Thinking Strategies and Arts Education program	Syracuse, NY	\$243,000
Florida Holocaust Museum for exhibits and programming	St. Petersburg, FL	\$292,000
Heckscher Museum of Art for digitalization of collections and related activities	Huntington, NY	\$97,000
Italian-American Cultural Center for exhibits, multi-media collections display	Des Moines, IA	\$146,000
James A. Michener Art Museum for equipment, salaries, and supplies	Doylestown, PA	\$97,000
Jefferson Barracks Heritage Foundation Museum for exhibits	St. Louis, MO	\$146,000
Los Angeles Craft and Folk Art Museum for education and outreach	Los Angeles, CA	\$82,000
Massie Heritage Center for exhibit upgrades and purchase of equipment	Savannah, GA	\$243,000
Mid-America Arts Alliance for the HELP program	Kansas City, MO	\$97,000
Museum of Utah Art & History to improve technology and exhibit preparation	Salt Lake City, UT	\$206,000
Portfolio Gallery and Education Center for educational programming	St. Louis, MO	\$87,000
Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum for exhibits, programs, and equipment	Savannah, GA	\$48,000
Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art for exhibits and programs	New Paltz, NY	\$146,000
Young Art Children's Museum for the Global Villiage Project	Davie, FL	\$170,000
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$4,144,000</b>

## VIEWPOINT

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The following passage is from the 2008 "Pigbook", a publication from Citizens Against Government Waste - the leading nonprofit organization fighting 'pork' in federal spending:

Definitions: A pork-barrel project is a line-item in an appropriations or authorization bill that designates funds for a specific purpose in circumvention of the normal procedures for budget review. To qualify as pork, a project must meet one of seven criteria that were developed in 1991 by Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) and the Congressional Porkbusters Coalition:

- Requested by only one chamber of Congress;
- Not specifically authorized;
- Not competitively awarded;
- Not requested by the President;
- Greatly exceeds the President's budget request or the previous year's funding;
- Not the subject of congressional hearings; or
- Serves only a local or special interest.

The pork label is not a subjective judgment of a project's merit. Rather, it refers to lapses in the procedures erected by Congress to review and consider the wise expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

Pork projects are usually slipped into large spending bills without debate, competition, or input from the relevant executive agencies. The provisions are often not subject to a separate vote in the House or the Senate and frequently appear in legislation only hours before Congress votes on appropriations bills. Furthermore, pork projects are not subject to performance standards. Until recently, there was no disclosure requirement for a project's recipient or its sponsor in Congress.

The terms "pork" and "earmarks" are often used interchangeably, but they are different. The term "earmark" generally means any expenditure for a specific purpose that is tucked into a larger bill. Only when the earmark is inappropriately added to the bill is it considered pork. Although there is no universal definition for "earmark," an analysis by the Congressional Research Service identified 15,268 earmarks in the non-emergency appropriations bills for fiscal 2005. By comparison, CAGW's 2005 Congressional Pig Book identified 13,997 pork-barrel projects in the same bills.

Precise terminology is essential for holding Congress accountable for the reforms that are needed to fix the budget process.



## QUESTIONS

For more information about the *Federal Resource Guide Series for Nonprofit Arts Organizations*, please contact Director of Federal Affairs, **Narric Rome**, at [nrome@artsusa.org](mailto:nrome@artsusa.org).

## RESOURCE SERIES

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## ABOUT AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 45 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, and more than 5,000 organizational and individual members across the country, Americans for the Arts is focused on three primary goals: 1) to foster an environment in which the arts can thrive and contribute to the creation of more livable communities; 2) to generate more public- and private-sector resources for the arts and arts education; and 3) to build individual appreciation of the value of the arts.

In 2004, Americans for the Arts launched **Americans for the Arts Action Fund**, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, to serve as its political advocacy arm and a national voice for the arts. With more than 20,000 citizen members and 70,000 online activists, the Arts Action Fund is significantly expanding arts advocacy outreach in America to help make certain that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at the federal, state, and local levels.

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