

(j) The term “determined to be obscene” means determined, in a final judgment of a court of record and of competent jurisdiction in the United States, to be obscene.

(k) The term “final judgment” means a judgment that is either—

- (1) not reviewed by any other court that has authority to review such judgment; or
- (2) is not reviewable by any other court.

(l) The term “obscene” means with respect to a project, production, workshop, or program that—

- (1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that such project, production, workshop, or program, when taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
- (2) such project, production, workshop, or program depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
- (3) such project, production, workshop, or program, when taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

(Pub. L. 89-209, §3, Sept. 29, 1965, 79 Stat. 845; Pub. L. 90-348, §§1, 7, June 18, 1968, 82 Stat. 184, 187; Pub. L. 91-346, §3, July 20, 1970, 84 Stat. 443; Pub. L. 93-133, §2(a)(2), Oct. 19, 1973, 87 Stat. 462; Pub. L. 96-496, title I, §101, Dec. 4, 1980, 94 Stat. 2583; renumbered title I, §3, Pub. L. 98-306, §2, May 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 223; renumbered §3 and amended Pub. L. 99-194, title I, §§101(1), 103, Dec. 20, 1985, 99 Stat. 1332; Pub. L. 101-512, title III, §318 [title I, §102], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1960, 1962.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(a)(1), (b)(1)], inserted “all those traditional arts practiced by the diverse peoples of this country.” after “forms,” and “film, video,” after “radio.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(b)(2)], inserted “film, video,” after “radio.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(b)(3)(A)], inserted “the widest” after “enhance”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(b)(3)(B)], which directed the substitution of “sections 954(p), 956(c)(10),” for “sections 954(1)”, was executed by making the substitution for “sections 954(l)” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(a)(2)], added subsecs. (h) and (i).

Subsecs. (j) to (l). Pub. L. 101-512, §318 [title I, §102(c)], added subsecs. (j) to (l).

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-194, §103(1), substituted “study and interpretation of the following” for “study of the following” and inserted “to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and” after “particular attention”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 99-194, §103(2), inserted “for purposes of sections 954(l) and 956(h) of this title only,” before “the construction of facilities if”, “or humanistic” after “artistic”, and “and the National Council on the Humanities, as the case may be,” after “the National Council on the Arts”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-496, §101(a), substituted “and theory of the arts” for “theory, and practice of the arts”.

Subsec. (d)(1)(B). Pub. L. 96-496, §101(b), inserted “or the National Council on the Humanities, as the case may be”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 96-496, §101(c), inserted “the Northern Mariana Islands”.

1973—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-133 substituted “or purchase of facilities” for “, purchase, renovation, or construction of facilities” and added pars. (1) and (2).

1970—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 91-346 extended term “humanities” to include the study of comparative religion and ethics, and emphasized that particular attention be paid to relevance of humanities to current conditions of national life when engaging in study and application of humanities to human environment.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-348, §7, extended term “humanities” to include the study and application of enumerated fields to human environment.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 90-348, §7, extended term “arts” to include study and application of enumerated art forms to human environment.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 90-348, §1, substituted “activity” for “production” in definition of “workshop” and extended enumerated purposes to include promotion of scholarship and teaching among participants.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-512 effective Oct. 1, 1990, see section 318 [title IV, §403(a)] of Pub. L. 101-512, set out as a note under section 951 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-133 effective on and after July 1, 1973, see section 2(b) of Pub. L. 93-133, set out as a note under section 951 of this title.

§ 953. National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities

(a) Establishment; composition

There is established a National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities (hereinafter referred to as the “Foundation”), which shall be composed of a National Endowment for the Arts, a National Endowment for the Humanities, a Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, and an Institute of Museum and Library Services.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of the Foundation shall be to develop and promote a broadly conceived national policy of support for the humanities and the arts in the United States, and for institutions which preserve the cultural heritage of the United States pursuant to this subchapter.

(c) Prohibition against Federal supervision over policy determination, personnel, or curriculum, or administration or operation of any school or other non-Federal body

In the administration of this subchapter no department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States shall exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the policy determination, personnel, or curriculum, or the administration or operation of any school or other non-Federal agency, institution, organization, or association.

(Pub. L. 89-209, §4, Sept. 29, 1965, 79 Stat. 846; renumbered title I, §4, and amended Pub. L. 98-306, §§2, 4, May 31, 1984, 98 Stat. 223; renumbered §4 and amended Pub. L. 99-194, title I, §§101(1), 104, Dec. 20, 1985, 99 Stat. 1332, 1333; Pub. L. 111-340, title II, §208(1), Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3602.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-340 substituted “Institute of Museum and Library Services” for “Institute of Museum Services”.

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-194, §104, struck out a second comma after “a National Endowment for the Humanities” and “(hereinafter established)” after “Institute of Museum Services”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-306, §4(a), substituted “, a Federal Council” for “and a Federal Council” and inserted “, and an Institute of Museum Services”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-306, §4(b), inserted “, and for institutions which preserve the cultural heritage of the United States”.

§ 954. National Endowment for the Arts

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Foundation a National Endowment for the Arts.

(b) Chairperson of the Endowment; term of office; vacancies

(1) The Endowment shall be headed by a chairperson, to be known as the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) The term of office of the Chairperson shall be four years and the Chairperson shall be eligible for reappointment. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to any person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Chairperson. Upon expiration of the Chairperson's term of office the Chairperson shall serve until the Chairperson's successor shall have been appointed and shall have qualified.

(c) Program of contracts, grants-in-aid, or loans to groups and individuals for projects and productions; traditionally underrepresented recipients of financial assistance

The Chairperson, with the advice of the National Council on the Arts, is authorized to establish and carry out a program of contracts with, or grants-in-aid or loans to, groups or, in appropriate cases, individuals of exceptional talent engaged in or concerned with the arts, for the purpose of enabling them to provide or support—

(1) projects and productions which have substantial national or international artistic and cultural significance, giving emphasis to American creativity and cultural diversity and to the maintenance and encouragement of professional excellence;

(2) projects and productions, meeting professional standards or standards of authenticity or tradition, irrespective of origin, which are of significant merit and which, without such assistance, would otherwise be unavailable to our citizens for geographic or economic reasons;

(3) projects and productions that will encourage and assist artists and enable them to achieve wider distribution of their works, to work in residence at an educational or cultural institution, or to achieve standards of professional excellence;

(4) projects and productions which have substantial artistic and cultural significance and that reach, or reflect the culture of, a minority, inner city, rural, or tribal community;

(5) projects and productions that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts;

(6) workshops that will encourage and develop the appreciation and enjoyment of the arts by our citizens;

(7) programs for the arts at the local level;

(8) projects that enhance managerial and organizational skills and capabilities;

(9) projects, productions, and workshops of the kinds described in paragraphs (1) through (8) through film, radio, video, and similar media, for the purpose of broadening public access to the arts; and

(10) other relevant projects, including surveys, research, planning, and publications relating to the purposes of this subsection.

In the case of publications under paragraph (10) of this subsection such publications may be supported without regard for the provisions of section 501 of title 44 only if the Chairperson consults with the Joint Committee on Printing of the Congress and the Chairperson submits to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report justifying any exemption from such section 501. Any loans made by the Chairperson under this subsection shall be made in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. In selecting individuals and groups of exceptional talent as recipients of financial assistance to be provided under this subsection, the Chairperson shall give particular regard to artists and artistic groups that have traditionally been underrepresented.

(d) Application for payment; regulations and procedures

No payment shall be made under this section except upon application therefor which is submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts in accordance with regulations issued and procedures established by the Chairperson. In establishing such regulations and procedures, the Chairperson shall ensure that—

(1) artistic excellence and artistic merit are the criteria by which applications are judged, taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public; and

(2) applications are consistent with the purposes of this section. Such regulations and procedures shall clearly indicate that obscenity is without artistic merit, is not protected speech, and shall not be funded. Projects, productions, workshops, and programs that are determined to be obscene are prohibited from receiving financial assistance under this subchapter from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The disapproval or approval of an application by the Chairperson shall not be construed to mean, and shall not be considered as evidence that, the project, production, workshop, or program for which the applicant requested financial assistance is or is not obscene.

(e) Limitation on amount of grant to group; grants and contracts of the National Endowment for the Arts

The total amount of any grant to any group pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total cost of such project or production, except that not more than 20 per centum of the funds allotted by the National Endowment for the Arts for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section for any fiscal year may be available for grants and contracts in that fiscal year without regard to such limitation.