



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 2015

Mr. Jonathan E. Dimmock
San Francisco, California

Dear Jonathan:

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your passion for the arts and humanities, and like you, I believe they enrich our lives and strengthen our understanding of the world we share.

America's paintings and poems, our stories and songs do more than entertain us—they push us to think and discover, to grow and reach new heights. They help bridge our differences and show us we are heirs to a fundamental truth: that out of many, we are one. Each of us has had our ideas challenged by a writer's perspective, our understanding deepened by a historian's insight, or our spirits lifted by a singer's voice. These experiences are a crucial part of our children's education and a driving force behind our country's innovative and inclusive spirit.

The creativity and analysis inspired by the arts and humanities remind us that one of the most powerful tools we possess as a people is the human imagination. The dreamers and creators who fuel progress and help light the way ahead need our support, and we need them to succeed—as much as we need our engineers and scientists to succeed. Our artists and scholars disrupt our views and stir in us a desire to be our best selves. My Administration will continue doing everything we can to encourage states and local school districts to maintain strong arts and humanities programs.

Thank you, again, for writing. I encourage you to keep speaking out, and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.