

The Action for the Month is an action for all individuals in the U.S. El Sistema-inspired movement to take, together, to increase our impact and visibility. Please make a habit of taking every action and urging those you work with to do so too. These monthly actions are dedicated to the students and communities we serve.

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January 2018

Action for the Month: email Mary Anne Carter, Senior Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts carterm@arts.gov

Mary Anne Carter was appointed by the Trump Administration to work inside the National Endowment for the Arts. Many people were nervous that her mandate was to downsize or undermine it. She has proven to be a strong advocate for the NEA, and she and NEA Chairman Jane Chu continue to represent the arts effectively inside and outside the government. She was drawn to this work because her daughter had a powerful experience in studying dance.

Please thank Mary Anne Carter for her active support for the NEA and for her work to keep its funding strong.

Then mention your program—we want her to become aware of the national network of El Sistema-inspired programs. If you like, you can mention that you have heard that she has a daughter whose life has been changed by intensive study of dance, and that your program provides for underprivileged kids the same kind of in-depth learning in music that meant so much for her daughter.

Mention that a few of our 100+ plus El Sistema inspired programs in the U.S. get a little funding from the NEA, but we appreciate her active advocacy for arts learning that brings the benefits her daughter enjoyed to kids who couldn't afford them without special programs like ours.