

The following table represents a brief summary of answers to letters, which we recently sent to chief finance officers in selected U.S. cities, requesting certain information about municipal financial support of artistic and cultural activities. The 56 cities selected to receive copies of our letter were chosen on the basis of their population size (as indicated in the 1950 Bureau of the Census report) or because they were known to give municipal financial support to certain artistic or cultural activities.

|                                                                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of letters sent.....                                                                                                                 | 56 |
| Number of replies to date (July 30, 1959).....                                                                                              | 38 |
| Number of cities which indicated current support of artistic and cultural activities.....                                                   | 34 |
| Number of cities which indicated the lack of any current support of this type.....                                                          | 4  |
| Number of cities which indicated that a certain portion of taxes are set aside for such support (Evansville, Ind., and St. Louis, Mo.)..... | 2  |

For the most part, letters received from the cities deal with: (1) sources of funds (i.e., general revenues, taxes earmarked for such purposes, etc.); (2) the artistic and cultural activities, organizations, institutions, buildings, etc., which receive municipal funds; (3) the amount of municipal funds expended for such purposes; and (4) how such funds are allocated to the various municipally supported fine arts and other cultural programs. With respect to your inquiry concerning Washington, D.C.'s \$16,000 recreation budget appropriation for cultural and art purposes, the enclosed chart indicates considerably higher appropriations by most other large cities.

In preparing the enclosed chart we have attempted to limit the facts and figures included to those which seem most pertinent to the nature of your request. Information contained in the responses from the cities has been presented as we received it. Due to the lack of uniformity of methods of answering our questions, no attempt has been made to interpret the facts contained in the letters.

Furthermore, since a definition of the phrase "cultural activities" was not included in our letter to the cities, some of the information received and also listed on the enclosed chart may be extraneous to your purposes, depending on how one defines "cultural activities." In general, we have omitted the following types of activity from inclusion in this chart: Libraries and certain library fine arts programs (unless the latter were specifically mentioned), historical societies, academies of sciences, institutes (unless specifically called "art institute"), certain arts and crafts programs of recreation departments, planetariums, aquariums, zoological parks, botanical gardens, etc., societies of natural sciences, spring fiestas, and certain types of indirect assistance given by city, such as use of staff, office space, etc. (unless specifically mentioned in letters).

We hope that this information and the accompanying chart will be helpful.

HELEN A. MILLER,  
ANNE M. FINNEGAN.