**Congressional Meeting Talking Points and Scheduling Tips**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am with Young Audiences Arts for Learning. Today, I would like to speak to you about arts in education. Arts in education is the artistic and educational development of students by bringing young people together with professional artists in all art disciplines to learn, create, and participate in the arts. Our affiliate, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, is deeply involved within the local community and we work with \_\_\_\_\_\_ kids in your district.

I’d like to invite your office to an event on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which will feature our work in the classroom and our work with the community. We know education is an important priority within your office, and we feel that it would be worthwhile for the Representative/Senator to learn more about YA’s approach and the significance of integrating the arts into all classes.

* If you talk to the Representative/Senator, try and be personal and emphasize the affiliate’s work with the community
* If you are talking to staff, be welcoming and specific regarding dates/time/location/time commitment
* The earlier you contact an office, the better, keeping in mind that schedules fill quickly/time isn’t always allocated for a certain part of the member’s district
* Be sure to follow-up, even if plans are confirmed are they are still sorting the schedule; follow-up with any request within 10 days via call and email
* If an office can’t send the member, encourage staff to attend and the emphasize local attendees such as educators, parents, mayors and city councils
* Have quick points handy on programs offered, schools you work with, amount of kids you work with, etc.

If you have any questions or need help reaching any office, please contact YA leadership and Lobbyit staff for assistance