Government policies should be in favor of the general welfare of its people. Human being, living in the society, also relies on the society to survive. Without the help of society, people would start looking for food supply themselves, lose their opportunities to receive high-level education and dismiss from their jobs, which are their major source of income. It might seems that in most cases, nations should reduce its funding for the arts when significant numbers of their citizens are hungry or unemployed.

Government has played an important role in maintaining the lives of its citizens. This role is more distinct when natural disaster inflicts citizens. A satisfactory example would be the government participation in Wenchuan earthquake. This earthquake has rendered the demise of more than two hundred thousands people and the government took several reactions to secure the safety of survivors and to appease their hurt mind. Adequate food supplies were sent there by air and by truck. Tents and other shelters were built quickly to provide room for those survivors. Rescue teams were also designated there to save alive survivors that was still trapped in the debris. Premier Wen even fly there to made public discourses to placate those survivors still in cower. Any individual or any company are not able achieve all of these actions taken above. It is the responsibility of a government to ensure the citizens away from hungry as the food, clothing and living is the basic needs for each individual.

In addition, the government is supposed to maintain the unemployment rate at a low level. The confidence of people will be diminished when they are unemployed and sometimes the state of unemployment even result in protests and turbulence. The debt crisis in Greece has lead to the unemployment among Greek citizens, especially young people. Their welfare was reduced and thus they began walking in the street, protesting against the austerity measures. It can be concluded from this example that people tends to ascribe the unemployment state to their government and the ability to deal with the unemployment also embodies the strength of a nation.

The artists are sometimes self-dependent and they usually do not rely on the government for their funding. Vincent van Gogh has demonstrated his talent in painting and is one of the impressionist virtuosos. During his lifetime, the major economy source for him is the support from his brother Theo. However, as the cultural lives are more and more accentuated, the government has played an increasingly important role in providing government funding for the arts. Art schools has been established and supported by the government and also exhibitions were held by the government to attract citizens and enrich their mental lives. However, private investments on arts are still the major trend because a people worrying about their survival are less likely to develop their interest in arts.

Last but not least, the funding for arts and the investment on saving the unemployment rate and solving the problem of food supply are not mutually exclusive. The major source income for a government is by imposing taxes, thus the total amount of investments for a government is limited and the government should balance and divide their investments into appropriate proportions. It is also worth mentioning that in developed countries, there are still many people suffering from hunger or in unemployed. This is more related to the effort of individual himself.

As a conclusion, it is too aggressive to make a sweeping generalization that nations should suspend government funding for the arts when significant number of their citizens are hungry or unemployed. It is of more practical significance for a government to weighing the priority of different matters and thus makes appropriate policies to divide its investments according to different priorities.