

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to support a budget of \$176 million for the NEA in the FY08 Interior Appropriations bill to restore funding for the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America through the NEA's core programs—*Access to Artistic Excellence, Challenge America: Reaching Every Community, Federal/State Partnerships, and Learning in the Arts.*

NEA Annual Appropriations, FY92 to present (in millions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06&07
Appropriation	176.0	174.5	170.2	162.3	99.5	99.5	98.0	98.0	97.6	104.8	115.2	115.7	121.0	121.3	124.4

Note: Figures above are not adjusted for inflation. Source: NEA

TALKING POINTS

The NEA supports artistic excellence and improves access to the arts by granting funds to nonprofit arts organizations.

- The NEA awarded 1,744 grants in 435 congressional districts in 2006 through its discipline programs.
- Through programs like *Challenge America*, the NEA supports artistic programs that reach underserved populations.
- Forty percent of all NEA program funds are re-granted through the state arts agencies, ensuring that federal funding has an even greater reach.
- On average, each NEA grant leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources, magnifying the impact of the federal investment.
- With more funding, the NEA's core programs could better bring the best in the arts to all Americans:
 - Additional funds would allow the size of individual grants to increase, after having declined steadily since the NEA's budget was cut by 40 percent in FY96.
 - Inadequate funding has caused many high-quality grant applications to go unfunded.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide.

- NEA grants to organizations and local arts agencies help them maximize their economic and social contributions to their communities.
- The nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion annually in economic activity, supports 4.85 million full-time equivalent jobs, and returns \$10.5 billion to the federal government in income taxes. Measured against direct federal cultural spending of about \$1.4 billion, that's a return of nearly eight to one. (These figures are from a 2002 Americans for the Arts study, and results from the 2007 updated study will be released in May.)
- The arts attract new tourism dollars. Sixty-five percent of U.S. travelers include cultural events on their trips, spending an average of \$38.05 per event in addition to the cost of admission on event-related items such as meals, parking, and retail sales.
- America's arts and entertainment are leading exports, with estimates of more than \$30 billion annually in overseas sales. Public spending on the arts helps position the United States to compete globally.

The NEA supports lifelong learning in the arts, through grants, partnerships, research, and national initiatives.

- Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.
- NEA grants support a wide range of projects, including educational programs for adults, collaborations between state arts agencies and state education agencies, and K-12 partnerships between arts institutions and educators.
- The NEA funds school-based and community-based grant programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art.

(continued)

BACKGROUND

The arts infrastructure of the United States is critical to the nation's cultural well-being as well as its economic vitality. It is supported by a remarkable combination of government, business, foundation, and individual donors. In a striking example of federal/state partnership, the NEA distributes 40 percent of its program dollars to state arts agencies, conditional on each state devoting its own appropriated funds. This partnership ensures that each state has a stable source of arts funding and policy. These grants, combined with state legislative appropriations and other dollars, are distributed widely to strengthen arts infrastructures and ensure broad access to the arts.

The NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts for over 40 years. Among its proudest accomplishments is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that were previously under-served, or not served at all. Americans can now see professional productions and exhibitions of high quality in their own home towns, and every congressional district now receives direct NEA grants.

Through its core programs—*Access to Artistic Excellence*, *Challenge America: Reaching Every Community*, *Federal/State Partnerships*, and *Learning in the Arts*—the NEA funds dance, design, folk & traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, multidisciplinary, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting, theater, and visual arts.

The American public favors spending federal tax dollars in support of the arts, and has made its feelings known to Congress. **During the 109th Congress, the House approved two amendments to increase NEA appropriations by voice vote. Further, in 2006, a bipartisan group of 43 Senators signed a “Dear Colleague” letter advocating an increase.**

Unfortunately, the NEA is funded at only \$124.4 million under the “continuing resolution” covering FY 2007, the same level at which it was funded in FY 2006 (see chart above). This amounts to just 41 cents per capita, as compared to 69 cents per capita in FY 1992. The President has requested an increase of \$4 million for FY 2008.

A total appropriation of \$176 million for FY08 would restore the agency to its 1992 level.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

ENRICHING AMERICA'S CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide an additional \$36 million for the NEH in the FY08 Interior Appropriations bill, for a total funding level of \$177 million. This increase represents an important step forward in restoring funding for NEH to its historic levels.

NEH Annual Appropriations, FY94 to Present (in millions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07
Appropriation	177.5	172.0	110.0	110.0	110.7	110.7	115.3	120.0	124.5	124.9	135.3	138.1	140.9	140.9

Note: Figures above are not adjusted for inflation. Source: NEH

TALKING POINTS

- ***The humanities are essential to democracy.*** A government that supports and funds the humanities fosters a better understanding of our history, culture and the world we live in. This enables a well-prepared citizenry to make informed decisions when faced with social, political, and technological issues.
- ***A small investment through NEH goes a long way.*** NEH provides seed money for high-quality projects and programs that reach millions of Americans each year. This money, and NEH's reputation, leverage millions of dollars in private support for humanities projects.
- ***The endowment's competitive peer review process encourages excellence.*** NEH-supported works have earned nearly 600 awards, including nine Pulitzer Prizes, eight Bancroft Prizes, and six National Book Awards.
- ***NEH is critical to addressing the nation's future needs in education.*** More than two-thirds of our nation's K-12 curriculum is dedicated to the humanities; 2 million new teachers will be needed in our classrooms over the next decade, and four out of five teachers feel inadequately prepared in their subject area.
- ***NEH provides critical leadership in preserving our historical and cultural heritage,*** from a 20-year effort to film crumbling books ("brittle books") to programs that assist museums with the stabilization of material culture collections. At-risk objects include books, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, archival collections, maps, photographs, films, sound recordings, oral histories, archaeological and ethnographic objects, decorative and fine art, and textiles.
- ***NEH provides critical support for humanities scholarship*** and facilitates the flow of scholarly research to the public through books, articles, educational television and radio programs, and other media.
- ***NEH engages Americans at all levels of learning through public programs in the humanities,*** including exhibits in museums, libraries, and historical organizations; through the programs of the state humanities councils; and a variety of other activities, such as radio, film, and television productions.

BACKGROUND

The NEH, an independent federal agency, is the largest single funder of humanities programs in the United States, providing grants for high-quality humanities projects in four primary funding areas: preservation, education, research and public programs. Grants typically go to cultural institutions such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, state humanities councils, public television and radio stations, film producers, and to individual scholars. NEH extends its reach through annual grants to its partner institutions, the state humanities councils, located in every state and U.S. territory. Dr. Bruce Cole, the Chairman of NEH, is a distinguished professor of art history, specializing in the Renaissance.

(continued)

BACKGROUND (CONT.)

NEH is funded at an estimated \$140.949 million in FY07. For fiscal year 2008, the President has requested \$141.355 million for the agency, approximately level funding over the previous year. A small increase of \$400,000 is provided, including \$230,000 for administrative costs and \$170,000 for program funds. Unfortunately, the President's proposal would cut competitive grant funds within NEH core programs by approximately \$1.1 million (includes Education, Preservation & Access, Public Programs, Research and Challenge Grants). \$1.4 million is provided for the NEH's new Digital Humanities Initiative.

What are the humanities?

According to the NEH's founding legislation, "The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods."

Digital Humanities Initiative

NEH launched a new initiative in 2006, aimed at supporting projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology. Digital technologies offer students and educators new methods of conducting research, conceptualizing relationships, and presenting scholarship. The NEH initiative is intended to foster the growth of digital humanities resources by supporting projects that: use digital technologies and methods to enhance understanding of a topic or issue; study the impact of digital technology on the humanities; or that digitize important humanities materials to increase the public's ability to search and access information.

NEH and the Arts

The NEH plays an important role in promoting knowledge of and appreciation for the arts in America. NEH provides critical support for scholarly research in the history, theory, and criticism of the arts. NEH professional development seminars for K-12 and college teachers help improve the teaching and learning of art history in classrooms across the United States. NEH-supported film and radio programs reach millions of viewers, helping to advance the public understanding of and appreciation for the arts. NEH provides critical resources to the nation's art museums in the form of grants to support exhibitions, exhibition catalogs, facilities improvements, collections enhancement, and preservation training. NEH-supported preservation projects have helped save literally millions of culturally and historically significant objects at risk due to their composition or storage conditions.

NEH makes grants to promote the documentation, understanding, and preservation of the arts in a broad range of areas, such as: visual art, art history, theater, literature, dance, music, and world cultures. To demonstrate the depth of NEH support for the arts, here are just a few examples of grants made within the last few years, dealing with the theme, "theatre":

Film Production- a \$550,000 grant to "City Lore: NY Center for Urban Folk Culture" for a two-hour film exploring the life and work of the American playwright Eugene O'Neill directed by Ric Burns (2005)

Exhibits - a \$40,000 grant to the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, GA to support planning for a permanent exhibition and web site using puppetry as a lens through which to view commonalities and differences in world cultures from ancient times to present (2006)

Endowment Building- a \$500,000 challenge grant to the Washington Drama Society/Arena Stage for an endowment to enhance humanities-related audience enrichment and education programming (2005)

Preservation and Access- a \$5,000 grant to the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance for a consultant's analysis of historic painted theater curtains and the development of a plan for their conservation (2005)

Scholarly Research- a \$24,000 fellowship to a scholar at Harvard University in Massachusetts to research "Leonard Bernstein and the Theater" (2004)

Teacher Training - a \$69,507 grant to the University of Redlands to support two three-day workshops for twenty-five undergraduate faculty in Asian theater, focusing on Japanese, Indonesian, and Indian dramatic traditions (2005)

Legislative Recap of FY 2007 NEA & NEH Appropriations

Appropriations Summary:

Comparison of FY06 vs. FY07 Appropriations for NEA and NEH (in millions of dollars)

	FY06 Final	FY07 Request	FY07 House Approps. Committee	FY07 House	FY07 Senate Approps. Committee	FY07 Senate	FY07 Conference	FY07 Final*
NEA	124.4	124.4	124.4	129.4	124.4	-	-	124.4*
NEH	141	141	141	146	141	-	-	141*

* Continuing Resolution passed, setting appropriations at previous year's spending level.

Appropriations Detail:

February 6, 2006 - President Bush Releases FY07 Budget Request

The Office of Management and Budget releases the President's FY07 budget, which requests \$124.4 million for the NEA, identical to what was passed by Congress for FY06. The budget proposal also includes level funding of \$141 million for NEH.

March 29, 2006 - NEA and NEH Chairs Testify Before House Subcommittee

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee holds hearings on the FY07 budgets for the NEA and NEH. Administration is represented by NEA Chairman Dana Gioia and NEH Chairman Bruce Cole.

April 7, 2006 – Congressional Arts Caucus Circulates Letter in Support of NEA/NEH Funding

Congressional Arts Caucus co-chairs Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Chris Shays (R-CT) circulate a “Dear Colleague” asking for \$170 million for the NEA. The letter is signed by 122 Members of Congress.

May 4, 2006 - House Appropriations Subcommittee Marks Up FY07 Interior Spending Bill (H.R. 5386)

The Interior subcommittee funds the NEA at \$124.4 million, identical to FY06 and the President's request. It also level-funds the NEH at \$141 million.

May 10, 2006 – Full House Appropriations Committee Marks Up FY07 Interior Spending Bill

The Appropriations Committee approves the Interior Subcommittee's NEA/NEH recommendations.

May 18, 2006 - Amendment to Increase NEH/NEA Funding Passes in House

The House approves the Congressional Arts Caucus amendment to the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill which adds \$5 million to the NEA funding level (for a total of \$129.4 million) and \$5 million for the NEH (for a total of \$146 million). The amendment passes by voice vote. Also on May 18, the House rejected an amendment introduced by then-Rep. Bob Beauprez (R-CO) which would have decreased NEA funding by \$30 million by a vote of 112-306.

June 27, 2006 – Senate Interior Appropriation Subcommittee Approves FY07 Bill

The subcommittee funds the cultural agencies at the Administration's requested levels of \$124.4 million for the NEA and \$141 million for the NEH.

(continued)

Appropriations Detail (cont.):

June 29, 2006 – Full Senate Appropriations Committee Marks Up FY07 Bill

The full committee funds the cultural agencies at the Administration's requested levels of \$124.4 million for the NEA and \$141 million for the NEH.

September 9, 2006 – Congress Approves Continuing Resolution

Congress approves a continuing resolution for FY07, extending level funding for the NEA and the NEH until November 11, 2006.

October 10, 2006 – Senate Cultural Caucus Co-Chair Norm Coleman Sends Dear Colleague Letter

Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN) sends a "Dear Colleague" letter to the Senate Interior Subcommittee leadership calling for a funding increase for the NEA and NEH. 43 Senators sign the Dear Colleague letter.

November 17, 2006 – Congress Approves Continuing Resolution

Congress approves a continuing resolution for FY07, extending level funding for the NEA and the NEH until December 8, 2006.

December 9, 2006 – Congress Approves Continuing Resolution

Congress approves a continuing resolution for FY07, extending level funding for the NEA and the NEH until February 15, 2007.

February 16, 2007 – Congress Approves Final FY07 Continuing Resolution

To close out the FY07 appropriations process, Congress approves a final continuing resolution, extending level funding for the NEA and the NEH until September 30, 2007.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
& RELATED AGENCIES**

United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-3081

The Subcommittee on Interior has jurisdiction over the amount of funding provided to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Democrats (8):

Norman Dicks (Washington-6), Chair

James Moran (Virginia-8)
Maurice Hinchey (New York-22)
John Olver (Massachusetts-1)
Alan Mollohan (West Virginia-1)
Tom Udall (New Mexico-3)
Ben Chandler (Kentucky-6)
Ed Pastor (Arizona-4)

Republicans (5):

Todd Tiahrt (Kansas-4), Ranking Member

John Peterson (Pennsylvania-5)
John Doolittle (California-4)
Jo Ann Emerson (Missouri-8)
Virgil H. Goode (Virginia-5)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

United States House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2771
www.house.gov/appropriations

The House Committee on Appropriations has jurisdiction over the amount of federal funding provided to all federal agencies and programs.

Democrats (37):

David Obey (Wisconsin-7), Chair

John P. Murtha (Pennsylvania-12)
Norman Dicks (Washington-6)
Alan B. Mollohan (West Virginia-1)
Marcy Kaptur (Ohio-9)
Peter Visclosky (Indiana-1)
Nita M. Lowey (New York-18)
Jose E. Serrano (New York-16)
Rosa DeLauro (Connecticut-3)
James P. Moran (Virginia-1)
John W. Olver (Massachusetts-1)
Ed Pastor (Arizona-4)
David E. Price (North Carolina-4)
Chet Edwards (Texas-11)
Robert E. Cramer (Alabama-5)
Patrick Kennedy (Rhode Island-1)
Maurice Hinchey (New York-22)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (California-34)
Sam Farr (California-17)
Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Illinois-2)
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (Michigan-13)
Allen Boyd (Florida-2)
Chaka Fattah (Pennsylvania-2)
Steven Rothman (New Jersey-9)
Sanford Bishop, Jr. (Georgia-2)
Marion Berry (Arkansas-1)
Barbara Lee (California-9)
Tom Udall (New Mexico-3)
Adam Schiff (California-29)
Michael Honda (California-15)
Betty McCollum (Minnesota-4)
Steve Israel (New York-2)
Tim Ryan (Ohio-17)
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, (Maryland-2)
Ben Chandler (Kentucky-6)
Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (Florida-20)
Ciro Rodriguez (Texas-23)

Republicans (29):

Jerry Lewis (California-41), Ranking Member

C.W. Bill Young (Florida-10)
Ralph Regula (Ohio-16)
Harold Rogers (Kentucky-5)
Frank R. Wolf (Virginia-10)
James Walsh (New York-25)
David L. Hobson (Ohio-7)
Joe Knollenberg (Michigan-9)
Jack Kingston (Georgia-1)
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (New Jersey-11)
Roger Wicker (Mississippi-1)
Todd Tiahrt (Kansas-4)
Zach Wamp (Tennessee-3)
Tom Latham (Iowa-4)
Robert Aderholt (Alabama-4)
Jo Ann Emerson (Missouri-8)
Kay Granger (Texas-12)
John E. Peterson (Pennsylvania-5)
Virgil Goode (Virginia-5)
John Doolittle (California-4)
Ray LaHood (Illinois-18)
Dave Weldon (Florida-15)
Michael K. Simpson (Idaho-2)
John Culberson (Texas-7)
Mark Kirk (Illinois-10)
Ander Crenshaw (Florida-4)
Dennis Rehberg (Montana-AL)
John R. Carter (Texas-31)
Rodney Alexander (Louisiana-5)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR

United States Senate
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Tel: (202) 224-7233, Fax: (202) 228-4532

The Subcommittee on Interior has jurisdiction over the amount of funding provided to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Democrats (9):

Dianne Feinstein (California), Chair

Robert Byrd (West Virginia)
Patrick Leahy (Vermont)
Byron Dorgan (North Dakota)
Barbara Mikulski (Maryland)
Herbert Kohl (Wisconsin)
Tim Johnson (South Dakota)
Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Ben Nelson (Nebraska)

Republicans (8):

Larry Craig (Idaho), Ranking Member

Ted Stevens (Alaska)
Thad Cochran (Mississippi)
Pete Domenici (New Mexico)
Robert Bennett (Utah)
Judd Gregg (New Hampshire)
Wayne Allard (Colorado)
Lamar Alexander (Tennessee)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

United States Senate
S-128 Capitol Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Tel: (202) 224-7363
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

The Senate Committee on Appropriations has jurisdiction over the amount of federal funding provided to all federal agencies and programs.

Democrats (15):

Robert Byrd (West Virginia), Chair

Daniel Inouye (Hawaii)
Patrick Leahy (Vermont)
Tom Harkin (Iowa)
Barbara Mikulski (Maryland)
Herbert Kohl (Wisconsin)
Patty Murray (Washington)
Byron Dorgan (North Dakota)
Dianne Feinstein (California)
Richard Durbin (Illinois)
Tim Johnson (South Dakota)
Mary Landrieu (Louisiana)
Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Frank Lautenberg (New Jersey)
Ben Nelson (Nebraska)

Republicans (14):

Thad Cochran (Mississippi), Ranking Member

Ted Stevens (Alaska)
Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania)
Pete Domenici (New Mexico)
Christopher Bond (Missouri)
Mitch McConnell (Kentucky)
Richard Shelby (Alabama)
Judd Gregg (New Hampshire)
Robert Bennett (Utah)
Larry Craig (Idaho)
Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas)
Sam Brownback (Kansas)
Wayne Allard (Colorado)
Lamar Alexander (Tennessee)