

# Legislative Recap of 2017 NEA & NEH Appropriations

As of February 8, 2017

## Comparison of FY 2016 to FY 2018 Appropriations for NEA and NEH (in millions of dollars)

	President FY 2016 Request	FY 2016 House Approps Cmte	FY 2016 Senate Approps Subcmte	FY 2016 Final	President FY 2017 Request	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate Approps Cmte	FY 2017 Final	President FY 2018 Request
NEA	\$147.949	\$146.021	\$146.021	<b>\$147.949</b>	\$149.849	\$149.849	\$148.449	TBD	TBD
NEH	\$147.942	\$146.021	\$146.021	<b>\$147.942</b>	\$149.848	\$149.848	\$148.442	TBD	TBD

### FY 2017 Appropriations Timeline

**February 9, 2016**—In his last budget proposal as President, the **Obama administration proposes another almost \$2 million increase** - to nearly \$150 million - for the Endowments. It falls short of his initial requests, but continues a 2-year funding climb.

**May 25, 2016**—The **House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee unanimously approves legislation to fund the Endowments at the President's request, \$150 million each.**

**June 14, 2016**—The **Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approves a minor \$500,000 increase for the Endowments**, bringing proposed funding to about \$148.4 million for FY 2017. Surprisingly, this proposed funding is lower than the House. During committee discussion, Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) spoke positively about the slight increase, including the NEA's Healing Arts Partnership work.

**July 14, 2016**—The **House passes the Interior Appropriations bill on the floor, retaining the \$2 million increase for the Endowments.** The last time the House passed an Interior spending bill was in 2009! Unlike last year, there is also no prohibition of funding for NEA's Our Town program, which supports creative placemaking projects all across the country.

**September 28, 2016**—Having come to **no resolution on funding** as the start of the fiscal year approaches, Congress passes a continuing resolution to keep the government open until December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**December 8-9, 2016**—Post-election, **Congress decides to leave appropriations unfinished** and clears another continuing resolution, extending funding until April 28, 2017. Under the agreement, the Endowments continue to receive "level" funding of \$148 million—a disappointing outcome especially given the funding increases that the House, Senate, and administration had all proposed.

**February 2017**—As of this printing, it remains unclear when the White House will propose its **FY 2018 budget request.** Under current budget law, the White House is supposed to submit its request to Congress by the first Monday in February, but these deadlines have often been missed in recent years.

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