



# NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Part of the Federal Resource Guide Series for Arts Organizations

## SNAPSHOT

Resource Guide 7  
2007

### Legislation:

*National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965*, Public Law 89-209, as amended.

### Type of Assistance:

The programs listed in this resource guide provide assistance mainly through competitive grants.

### Who May Apply:

The National Endowment for the Humanities mainly requires that applicants be 501(c)(3) organizations. Please note that National Endowment for the Humanities also provides grants to individual scholars in various humanities disciplines, including art history.

### Activities Funded:

A range of activities, including exhibitions and public programs, documentaries, teacher programs, and art history scholarships, as well as individual fellowships.

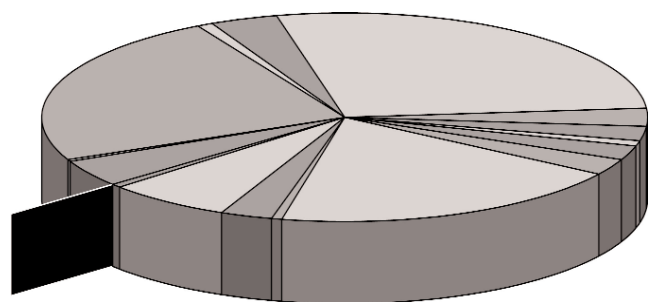
### FY 2007 Appropriations:

\$140.9 million

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FY 2007 Federal Budget



National Endowment for  
the Humanities



## BACKGROUND

President Lyndon Johnson and the United States Congress created both the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 1965. The two endowments are headquartered in the same building, share a relatively similar administrative structure, each with a chairman and a national advisory council, and make grants of similar sizes. They send a significant percentage of their program funds to state-level entities, though most of the state humanities councils are 501(c)(3) organizations rather than government agencies. The same committees of Congress authorize and appropriate funds for the two endowments, which have followed a nearly identical funding trajectory—both up and down—since 1965.

The 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act defines the humanities: "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; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

## EXPLANATION OF THE NEH GRANT PROGRAM

The NEH offers significant assistance for a range of arts-related programs, especially activities related to scholarship and public programs in art history, criticism, and theory.

While most arts organizations are thoroughly familiar with the funding opportunities offered by the NEA, many remain relatively unaware of those offered by NEH. In fact, the NEH offers significant assistance for a range of arts-related programs, especially activities related to scholarship and public programs in art history, criticism, and theory.

The NEH plays an important role in promoting knowledge of, and appreciation for, the arts in America. Its grants 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. 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. The NEH provides critical resources to art museums to support exhibitions, exhibition catalogs, facilities improvement, 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.

The NEH indeed gives grants to many different types of arts organizations, including museums, symphonies, theaters, and more. NEH grants to local arts agencies (LAAs) are rare but not unprecedented. LAAs may find that state humanities councils are more receptive to applications.

## EXPLANATION OF THE NEH GRANT PROGRAM (CONT.)

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According to the National Humanities Alliance, here are just a few examples of grants made within the last few years that deal with the theme "theater":

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.

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.

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.

Scholarly Research—a \$24,000 fellowship to a scholar at Harvard University to research Leonard Bernstein and the theater (2004).

The following grant examples include lists of arts-related NEH grants in a variety of categories, including:

- Public Programs
- Education Programs
- Research Programs
- Family and Youth Programs in American History

Please note that each of these major categories includes several subcategories. Readers can refer to the NEH website for a list of active grant competitions: [www.neh.gov/grants/index.html](http://www.neh.gov/grants/index.html).

Please note also that the NEH makes grants to individual scholars for research, whereas the NEA is mostly prohibited from making grants to individual artists, except in the areas of literature and honorific prizes in jazz and folk arts.

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## DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

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Due to the extensive number of grant categories, the deadlines for applications are equally as varied. The deadline for many applications is in the spring, with the grant being awarded and project commencing about six months later, in the fall. For exact dates for all grant activities, please visit [www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html](http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html).

Prior to submitting a proposal, you are encouraged to contact program officers who can offer advice about preparing the proposal and can read draft proposals. These staff comments are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the final outcome of the proposal, but previous applicants have found them helpful in strengthening their applications. Draft proposals should be submitted six weeks before the deadline. All NEH grant applications are accepted through the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) portal.



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## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS

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Each of the main NEH grant categories includes many subcategories. For example, Public Programs includes:

- Interpreting America's Historic Places: Implementing and Planning Grants
- Museums and Historical Organizations: Implementation Grants
- Television Projects
- Radio Projects

Space limitations do not allow us to list every type of grant category. Please note that the NEH does not always offer every type of grant in every given year. As mentioned above, we refer readers to the NEH website, [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov), for information on current grant competitions.

The following is a representative list of recent arts-related NEH grants, in state and city order:

### Arizona

*Nature, Culture, and History at the Grand Canyon*

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ

Award: \$44,160

Planning to develop an interactive website and DVD, audio tours, and other materials interpreting the cultural history of the Grand Canyon landscape.

### California

*The Architect and the Painter: The Creative Lives of Charles and Ray Eames*

Catticus Corporation

Berkeley, CA

Award: \$67,379

Scripting of a 90-minute documentary film on designers Charles and Ray Eames and their impact on visual vernacular culture in 20th-century America.

**University of California, Berkeley**

Berkeley, CA

Award: \$126,237

Purchase of storage furniture and supplies to rehouse 2,435 textiles from China, Japan, India, the Philippines, and Southeast Asia dating from the 18th century and held in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum.

*Contested Visions: The Image of the American Indian in Colonial Mexico and Peru*

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Los Angeles, CA

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a traveling exhibition and a catalog on continuities of preconquest artistic traditions in colonial Mexico and Peru and the multiple contexts in which native peoples are represented.

## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### California (cont.)

#### *Mami Wata: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and the African Atlantic World*

Fowler Museum of Cultural History

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

Award: \$250,000

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, programs, curriculum resources, and a publication on the various forms of water spirits in Africa and the variety of their derived New World appearances.

#### Museum of History and Art, Ontario

Ontario, CA

Award: \$5,000

The purchase of cabinets for the storage of material culture collections that document industries important to the development of Ontario, CA, including citrus growing, viticulture, mining, assaying, and ranching.

#### Balboa Art Conservation Center

San Diego, CA

Award: \$333,000

A regional preservation field service program that provides preservation surveys, workshops, technical consultations, and educational materials to museums and historical organizations in California, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington.

#### Museum of Photographic Arts

San Diego, CA

Award: \$5,000

Hiring two preservation consultants to develop and test a disaster recovery management plan, purchase supplies, and train the staff of the museum in emergency management preparedness. The museum holds a collection of 19th- and 20th-century photographs, including materials from the former Soviet Union.

#### Multi-Media Traveling Exhibit on *Dave Brubeck: Musician, Composer, Humanist*

University of the Pacific Library

Stockton, CA

Award: \$9,273

Consultation with scholars, archivists, librarians, and curators for a five-panel, audio-enhanced, multimedia traveling exhibition on composer and jazz pianist Dave Brubeck and his musical and social impact on late 20th-century American culture.

Please refer to the  
NEH website,  
[www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov), for  
information on  
current grant  
competitions.



## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### Colorado

*Impressionism and the Art of the Past*

Denver Art Museum

Denver, CO

Award: \$200,000

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, catalog, website, symposium, and other educational and public programs exploring how French impressionist artists drew on the art of the past.

### Delaware

*Seeing the City: Sloan's New York*

Delaware Art Museum

Wilmington, DE

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a traveling exhibition, catalog, and related educational and public programs exploring the New York art of John Sloan (1871–1951).

### District of Columbia

*Shakespeare in American Life*

Folger Shakespeare Library

Washington, DC

Award: \$190,944

Production of three one-hour radio documentaries to explore the influence of Shakespeare's work on American civic, political, and cultural life.

### Florida

*Promises of Paradise: Staging Mid-Century Miami*

Bass Museum of Art

Miami Beach, FL

Award: \$314,695

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, two catalogs, a symposium, and educational and public programming exploring midcentury Miami's history, architecture, and decorative arts.

## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### Georgia

*Puppetry: Common Threads of Humanity*

Center for Puppetry Arts

Atlanta, GA

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a permanent exhibition and a website using puppetry as a lens through which to view commonalities and differences in world cultures from ancient times to the present.

### Massachusetts

*El Greco to Velázquez: Art during the Reign of Philip III*

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Boston, MA

Award: \$200,000

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, films, and related programs on paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts produced in Spain, 1598–1621.

*Humanities Projects in Media: Johnny Cash*

Filmmaker's Collaborative

Lexington, MA

Award: \$30,000

Planning of a 90-minute television documentary that explores the life and music of American music legend Johnny Cash.

*Muses of the Avant Garde: Sara and Gerald Murphy and their Circle*

Williams College

Williamstown, MA

Award: \$235,000

Implementation of a traveling exhibition with a catalog and a public symposium about a remarkable American couple living well in France in the 1920s–1930s who influenced the trans-Atlantic exchange of ideas about modern art and music.

### Michigan

*Bandits and Heroes, Poets and Saints: An Introduction to the Popular Arts of the Northeast of Brazil*

ConVida—Popular Arts of the Americas

Detroit, MI

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a three-part traveling exhibition exploring the fusion of European, African, and indigenous traditions in popular art in northeastern Brazil.



## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### Minnesota

**Walker Art Center**

Minneapolis, MN

Award: \$292,000

The purchase of storage furniture and rehousing of paintings, sculpture, and archival collections that document the development of contemporary art in America.

### Mississippi

*Mississippi Blues Commission Blues Trail*

Mississippi Blues Commission

Indianola, MS

Award: \$305,000

Implementation of a heritage trail, website, and CD-ROM interpreting the history of the blues in the Delta region of Mississippi.

### Missouri

**Mid-America Arts Alliance**

Kansas City, MO

Award: \$1,499,384

To support the scaling down and reconfiguration of NEH-funded exhibitions and to manage all the logistical details associated with their travel to smaller museums.

### New Jersey

**Noyes Museum**

Oceanville, NJ

Award: \$5,000

The purchase of temperature and humidity, light, and insect monitoring equipment, as well as staff training in their use to improve storage conditions for the museum's collections of American fine and folk art and its collection of the folk art of southern New Jersey.

*Gifts from the Ancestors: Ancient Ivories of the Bering Strait*

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

Award: \$200,000

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, publication, website, and programs on the art of the Bering Strait region since about A.D. 1000; the insights it provides into the cultures in that area over time; and its ongoing influence on contemporary artists.



## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### New Mexico

#### **International Folk Art Foundation**

Santa Fe, NM

Award: \$700,000

The purchase of storage equipment, improvement of lighting and climate control, and the rehousing of 68,000 folk art objects from North and South America, Africa, and Asia.

### New York

#### *Afropop Worldwide*

World Music Productions

Brooklyn, NY

Award: \$150,000

Production of 26 original programs and repackaging of 28 previous broadcasts for a weekly radio program that explores the music cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora throughout the Americas, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

#### **Planning an Interpretive Exhibition Probing the Creative Process of Thomas Cole, Founder of the Hudson River School of Art**

Greene County Historical Society, Thomas Cole Site

Catskill, NY

Award: \$13,000

Planning for a sitewide interpretation of painter Thomas Cole's house and studio with emphasis on his art-making.

#### **An Online Japanese Performing Arts Resource Center (JPARC)**

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Award: \$178,901

The development of multimedia resources for understanding the culture and history of Japanese performing arts, including the theater experience of Japan in the 18th and 19th centuries; major creative figures; and the major genres of *noh*, *bunraku*, *kabuki*, and *kyogen*.

#### *African Fashion*

Museum for African Art

Long Island City, NY

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a traveling exhibition and a catalog on African clothing and fashion, especially the exchanges between Africa and other parts of the world during the last 200 years.



## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### New York (cont.)

*Beautiful Dreamers: Pioneers of American Music*

New York Foundation for the Arts

New York, NY

Award: \$75,000

Scripting of a documentary film series on the development of American music over the course of the 19th century.

*Dark Genius: The Story of Jerome Robbins*

Educational Broadcasting Corporation

New York, NY

Award: \$550,000

Production of a two-hour documentary film chronicling the life and achievements of Jerome Robbins, choreographer and theater director (1918–1998).

*New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, Inc.*

New York, NY

Award: \$2,100

Hiring a preservation consultant to assess a collection of 1,350 audio and videotapes of lectures from 1966 to the present given by prominent artists and scholars (among them Willem de Kooning, Philip Guston, and Buckminster Fuller) that focus on theories and philosophies of the arts.

*Paris, the Luminous Years: The Making of the Modern*

Educational Broadcasting Corporation

New York, NY

Award: \$75,000

Scripting of a two-part, two-hour film series on art and culture in Paris, 1905–1930.

*Theodore Dreiser: Marching Alone*

New York Foundation for the Arts

New York, NY

Award: \$30,000

Planning of a 90-minute film biography of Theodore Dreiser (1871–1945).

*Visions of the Apocalypse in Medieval Spain: The Beatus Manuscripts*

American Federation of Arts

New York, NY

Award: \$40,000

Planning of a traveling exhibition with a catalog and public programs about the manuscript art created over several centuries to illustrate a commentary on the biblical Book of Revelation compiled by the Spanish monk Beatus in 776 A.D. and the role of monastic scriptoria in medieval Spain.

## NEH GRANTS IN THE ARTS (CONT.)

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### Ohio

#### **Akron Art Museum**

Akron, OH

Award: \$295,674

The purchase and installation of storage furniture and the rehousing of modern and contemporary art collections encompassing strong holdings of painting and sculpture since 1960, 20th-century American and international photography, American impressionist and tonalist painting, and regional art.

#### ***Amazing American Circus Poster: Strobridge Lithographing Company 1878–1929***

Cincinnati Art Museum

Cincinnati, OH

Award: \$40,000

Planning for a traveling exhibition with a catalog about the cultural and economic history of the American circus, the art of the circus poster, and the history of lithographic printing in Cincinnati.

### Washington

#### ***S'abadeb (The Gifts): Coast Salish Art and Artists***

Seattle Art Museum

Seattle, WA

Award: \$40,000

Planning of a traveling exhibition with a catalog, a website, and public programs about Salish Indian art as a reflection of history and culture from prehistory to the present.

### Wisconsin

#### ***Shakespeare on the Fox: Community Engagement Program***

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

Oshkosh, WI

Award: \$10,000

Consultation with scholars and community organization staff to develop programs to interpret Shakespeare through reading and performance discussions for citizens in 16 Wisconsin communities.



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## NEH CHALLENGE GRANTS

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In addition to the programmatic grants listed above, the NEH also awards a small number of Challenge Grants each year. Challenge Grants are in the mid-to high-six figures and can be used for endowments.

### Program Contact Information

T 202.606.8309

E [challenge@neh.gov](mailto:challenge@neh.gov)

Hearing-impaired applicants can contact the NEH via TDD at 866.372.2930.

According to the NEH, Challenge Grants help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements and support for their humanities programs and resources. Awards are made to museums, public libraries, colleges, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, public television and radio stations, universities, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other nonprofit entities.

Challenge Grants most commonly augment or establish endowments that support humanities activities in education, public programming, scholarly research, and preservation. Institutions may use the income from invested funds to meet ongoing humanities-related costs, such as:

- faculty and staff positions, fellowships
- lecture or exhibition series
- visiting scholars or consultants
- publishing subventions
- maintenance of facilities
- faculty and staff development
- acquisitions
- preservation/conservation programs

Where clearly related to improvements in the humanities, direct expenditures from Challenge Grant awards are allowable. Such expenditures, however, must be for items that have inherent longevity, such as:

- materials that enhance library or museum collections
- construction or renovation of facilities
- equipment
- fundraising costs (totaling no more than 10 percent of grant funds)

### Examples of Challenge Grants awarded in 2006 include:

Anchorage Museum of History and Art

Anchorage, AK

Award: \$300,000

To support an endowment in support of a full-time conservator.

## NEH CHALLENGE GRANTS (CONT.)

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### Examples of Challenge Grants awarded in 2006 include (cont.):

#### **Asian Art Museum of San Francisco**

San Francisco, CA

Award: \$625,000

To support an endowment for the full-time position of Conservation Department Chair.

#### **National Museum of Women in the Arts**

Washington, DC

Award: \$635,000

To support an endowment for scholarship on women artists and the museum's Library and Research Center.

#### **University of Georgia**

Athens, GA

Award: \$750,000

Construction and furnishings for Humanities Study Centers in the Georgia Museum of Art, an expanded facility for the museum's fine arts library and three research centers.

#### **Frick Collection**

New York, NY

Award: \$750,000

Endowment for a senior curator of decorative arts as well as related humanities programming.

#### **American Musicological Society**

Philadelphia, PA

Award: \$240,000

Endowment for publications, subventions, and an award program in musicology as well as fundraising costs.

#### **Rhode Island School of Design**

Providence, RI

Award: \$600,000

Renovation of, and additions to, existing galleries that will allow the reinstallation and reinterpretation of the permanent collection.

#### **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

Richmond, VA

Award: \$610,000

To support an endowment for the Head Librarian, a reference librarian, acquisitions, equipment, furnishings, and a professional development and travel fund.



## FACULTY HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS

### Program Contact Information

T 202.606.8380

E [education@neh.gov](mailto:education@neh.gov)

Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 866.372.2930.

### Program Description

Grants for Faculty Humanities Workshops support local and regional professional development programs for K–12 teachers and faculty at postsecondary institutions by providing such faculty with the opportunity to engage in vigorous intellectual inquiry with visiting scholars on significant topics in the humanities.

For school teachers, these intellectual enrichment projects typically respond to or align with humanities topics and subjects identified in state or other appropriate frameworks for learning. Such projects involve a series of meetings during periods of up to 18 months to pursue a well-defined, cohesive course of study. Participants have opportunities to work with visiting humanities scholars as they carry out a collaborative program of readings, discussions, and other activities. Projects can involve teachers from a single school, a cluster of schools, or a school district, and draw upon humanities resources in the wider community, such as libraries, museums, historical organizations, and other educational institutions.

Workshops should:

- extend and deepen participants' knowledge of the humanities;
- provide faculty with the opportunity for focused reading, reflection, and discussion supporting a sustained intellectual inquiry;
- involve scholars from outside the institution(s) who bring appropriate expertise on the topic of the project;
- use effective formats and programs to engage faculty members; and
- advance the study and teaching of the humanities at the participating institution(s).

Proposals to provide workshops for college faculty and school teachers with limited access to professional development in the humanities are encouraged. These workshops may include teachers at charter schools, parents who home school, private licensed school faculty, and community college faculty.

Funds may be used to pay for visiting scholars, books and other materials, logistical support, and appropriate release time for project staff.

## FACULTY HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS (CONT.)

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Applicants interested in applying for a grant to direct a project for a national audience should consult the guidelines for NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes.

### Award Information

Faculty Humanities Workshops can be funded up to \$30,000 in outright funds for projects serving a single institution; regional or multi-institutional programs may receive awards of up to \$75,000. The grant period may run between 12 and 18 months, depending on the project.

### Eligibility

Any U.S. nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is eligible, as are state and local governmental agencies and tribal governments. Grants are not awarded to individuals.

### Example

A \$69,507 grant to the University of Redlands to support two, three-day workshops for 25 undergraduate faculty in Asian theater, focusing on Japanese, Indonesian, and Indian dramatic traditions (2005).

Proposals to provide workshops for college faculty and school teachers with limited access to professional development in the humanities are encouraged.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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- National Endowment for the Humanities, News & Publications  
<http://neh.gov/news/index.html>
- Federation of State Humanities Councils  
[www.statehumanities.org](http://www.statehumanities.org)
- National Humanities Alliance  
[www.nhalliance.org](http://www.nhalliance.org)



## QUESTIONS

For more information about the *Federal Resource Guide Series for Nonprofit Arts Organizations*, please contact Director of Federal Affairs **Narric Rome** at [nrome@artsusa.org](mailto:nrome@artsusa.org).

## RESOURCE SERIES

Resource Guide 1.....Arts Education  
Resource Guide 2.....CDBG  
Resource Guide 3.....Transportation  
Resource Guide 4.....Cultural Exchanges  
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## ABOUT AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 45 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, and more than 5,000 organizational and individual members across the country, Americans for the Arts is focused on three primary goals: 1) to foster an environment in which the arts can thrive and contribute to the creation of more livable communities; 2) to generate more public- and private-sector resources for the arts and arts education; and 3) to build individual appreciation of the value of the arts.

In 2004, Americans for the Arts launched **Americans for the Arts Action Fund**, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, to serve as its political advocacy arm and a national voice for the arts. With more than 20,000 citizen members and 70,000 online activists, the Arts Action Fund is significantly expanding arts advocacy outreach in America to help make certain that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at the federal, state, and local levels.

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