Arts Facts . . . NEA Funding Fails to Keep Pace
The NEA budget has been losing its share of federal
discretionary spending and failing to keep pace with inflation.
When adjusted for inflation, the NEA’s 1992 budget is more
than twice the actual 2016 budget.

If the NEA had simply maintained its 1984 percentage of non-defense discretionary spending (0.107 percent,
or 11 cents per $100 of spending), its 2016 budget would have been $581.5 million instead of $148 million.

NEA Budget Loses Share of Non-Defense Discretionary Spending

NEA Funding Fails to Keep Pace with Inflation: 1992 - 2017
[Millions of Dollars]

If the NEA’s 1992 budget remained constant and was only adjusted for inflation, it would be $308.2 million in
2017, instead of $148 million, a $160 million difference.