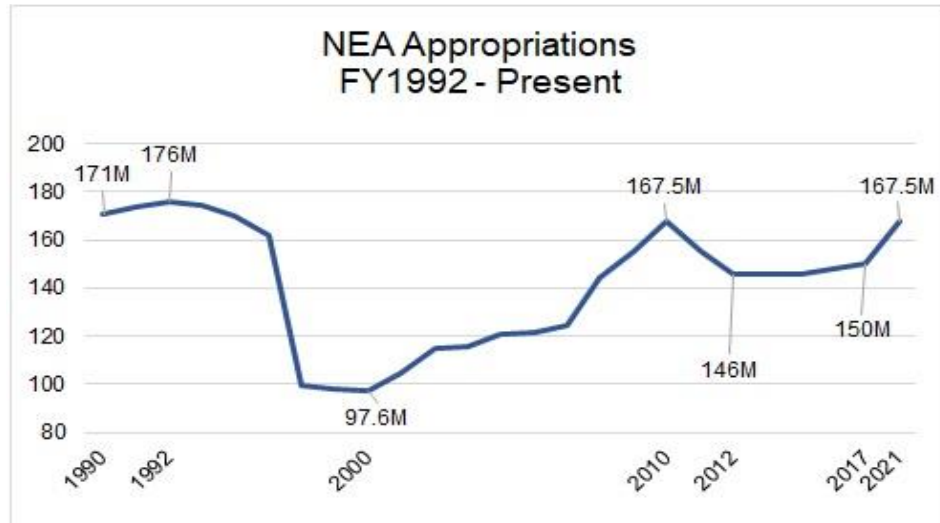


NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)
PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- **Continue bipartisan support and substantially increase National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.**
- **Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide more and larger grants, suspend matching requirements, and allow for general operating support funding.**



THE NEA: AMERICA'S LEAD SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) plays a unique role in broadening access to and participation in the arts in every congressional district and should be more fully supported in order to expand and deepen its impact on our communities and our democracy.

The arts sector is an economic engine and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this nation will need the arts and culture sector to deliver on its unique mission to uplift, engage, educate, and innovate. The NEA can help leverage the arts sector to play a key role in the work to imagine and build a new American economy.

The Endowment's goals are fulfilled primarily through direct grants—reviewed and recommended by panels of experts—to arts organizations across the country. The NEA:

- Awards 40% of its grantmaking budget directly to the states through their state and regional arts agencies, extending the NEA's reach further to millions of people in thousands of communities.
- Recommends on average 2,400 grants in every Congressional District in the country. The majority of grants go to small and medium-sized organizations (budgets less than \$2 million), which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.
- Recognizes outstanding achievement in the arts through Jazz Masters Fellowships, National Heritage Fellowships, and National Medal of Arts, and creative artists are also supported through Literature Fellowships.
- 42% of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 35% of grants reach low-income audiences of under-resourced populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and Veterans.
- In 2020, the NEA was a model among federal agencies in rapidly disbursing CARES Act funding in the amount of \$75 million.

BROADENS ACCESS AND EQUITY

- In terms of racial equity, the arts sector is a powerful conduit for bridging and healing deep divisions. The NEA has a role in redressing systemic injustice—including long-time inequities in arts funding, as well as a lack of appreciation for creativity from all cultures.
- The NEA is establishing and cultivating ongoing relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), building capacity for successful applications, and has made recent grants to HBCUs, including Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, and Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland.
- The Challenge America funding category specifically offers support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, economics, or disability.
- The NEA's role is to make sure all Americans have access to the arts no matter where they live. Among the NEA's accomplishments is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that have been under-resourced, especially in rural and inner-city communities. In many communities, NEA grants support free performances, as well as reduced ticket prices for those who cannot afford to buy a ticket. A significant percentage of grants benefit those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts.

PROVIDES A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar will approach 9:1, far surpassing the required non-federal match of at least 1:1. This generated more than \$500 million in matching support and illustrates why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- The nonprofit arts industry supports 4.13 million jobs in the arts and related industries. The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product at 4.5%, which amounts to an impressive \$878 billion.

SUPPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

- The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts. It also supports educational programs for adults, collaborations between state arts agencies and state education agencies, and partnerships between arts institutions and K-12 and college and university educators.
- The NEA supports military families through its Creative Forces program, a collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to serve the unique and special needs of military patients and Veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This spring, Creative Forces initiative will announce a new grant program to fund arts-based programs, specifically for active military members, Veterans, and family/caregivers. Arts organizations across the country may apply.

BACKGROUND

The NEA's FY 2021 budget is \$167.5 million, just 0.004% of the federal budget and 49 cents per capita. Despite the Trump Administration repeatedly proposing termination, both chambers have consistently supported modest increases, reflecting steady and consistent bipartisan support over the last several years. Advocates hope to continue this trajectory, calling for a substantial increase of funds for FY22.