If the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) 1992 budget of $176 million had remained constant and was only adjusted for inflation, it would be $377 million in 2023—instead of $207 million—a $170 million difference.

In 2023, the NEA receives 2.4 cents per $100 of non-defense discretionary spending by the federal government. In 1984, by comparison, the NEA received 11 cents per $100 of spending. If the NEA had simply maintained its 1984 percentage of non-defense discretionary spending, its 2023 budget would be $828 million—$621 million more than its current amount of $207 million.

Source: NEA; Congressional Budget Office. Analysis by Americans for the Arts, 2023.