

# NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

## PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

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### ACTION NEEDED

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**We urge Congress:**

- **To support a budget of \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations bill to preserve citizen access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.**

**NEA Annual Appropriations, FY 1992 to present (in millions of dollars)**

FY	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96/ '97	'98/ '99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06/ '07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12/'13**/ '14/'15
\$	176	174.5	170.2	162.3	99.5	98	97.6	104.8	115.2	115.7	121	121.3	124.4	144.7	155	167.5	155	146

\*\* In FY 2013, this total was reduced to \$138.4 million through sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act as amended by PL 112-240. Source: NEA

### THE NEA'S FEDERAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IS SIGNIFICANT

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As the Endowment reaches its 50th anniversary, direct grants are anticipated to:

- Reach more than 38 million people attending live arts events through NEA-supported programs (exclusive of television and radio broadcast audiences), including nearly 7 million children.
- Impact almost 16,000 communities engaged in NEA-supported projects, many benefiting from touring and outreach initiatives.

### TALKING POINTS

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*NEA grants to arts organizations contribute to economic growth and development of communities nationwide.*

- **The arts help communities prosper in a diversified 21st-century economy.** Nonprofit arts organizations, along with creative enterprises, contribute to state and local economies, generating employment and tax revenues and providing goods and services demanded by the public. The nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion annually in economic activity, supports 4.13 million full-time equivalent jobs in the arts and related industries, and returns \$9.59 billion in federal taxes. (Source: Americans for the Arts, AEP IV study)
- **The arts put people to work.** More than 905,000 U.S. businesses are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts, employing 3.35 million people: visual artists, performing artists, managers, marketers, technicians, teachers, designers, carpenters, and a variety of other trades and professions—jobs that pay mortgages and send children to college. Artists are a larger workforce group than the legal profession, medical doctors, or agricultural workers. (Sources: Americans for the Arts, Creative Industries, 2012; NEA, Artists in the Workforce, 2008)
- **The arts are a business magnet.** A strong arts sector stimulates business activity, attracting companies that want to offer employees and clients a creative climate and a community with high amenity value. The arts are a proven strategy for successfully revitalizing rural areas and inner cities and help local merchants thrive through the purchase of goods and services.
- **The arts are a significant part of Gross Domestic Product.** In 2012, the American creative sector was measured by the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The BEA and the NEA developed an "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" which calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP) at 4.32 percent—or \$698 billion—of current-dollar GDP in 2012. By comparison, this is more than construction (\$586.7 billion) or transportation and warehousing (\$464.1 billion). (Source: BEA, 2014)
- **The arts attract tourism revenue.** Cultural tourism accounts for 78 percent of U.S. travelers—some 118 million tourists—who include arts and heritage in their trips each year. They stay longer and spend 36 percent more money than other kinds of travelers do, contributing more than \$192 billion annually to the U.S. economy. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Cultural and Heritage Traveler Research, 2009)

## TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

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*The NEA improves access to the arts; supports artistic excellence; and fosters lifelong learning in the arts through grants, partnerships, research, and national initiatives.*

- **NEA funds spread across the country and expand arts access.** Every U.S. congressional district benefits from an NEA grant, leveraging additional support from a diverse range of private sources to combine funding from government, business, foundation, and individual donors. The NEA awarded nearly 2,300 grants in 2014, totaling \$108 million in appropriated funds. These grants are listed at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/aad-research](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/aad-research).
- **The NEA has an exemplary partnership with states.** Forty percent of all NEA program funds—approximately \$46 million in FY 2014—are distributed through state arts agencies. In combination with approximately \$307 million in state appropriations, the federal-state partnership supports more than 23,000 grants in 5,000 communities across the United States. Voters in every congressional district are stakeholders in sustaining this successful partnership. (Source: NASAA, State Arts Agency Grant Making and Funding 2014)
- **Rural and underserved communities benefit** from the Challenge America Fast-Track category which offers support to small and mid-size organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.
- **Federal funding for the arts leverages private funding.** The NEA requires at least a one-to-one match of federal funds from all grant recipients—a match far exceeded by most grantees. On average, each NEA grant leverages at least \$9 from other state, local, and private sources, generating roughly \$600 million in matching support. Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding.
- **NEA grants support a range of educational projects.** Arts education in school and participation in arts lessons are the most significant predictors of arts participation later in life. The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts. The NEA 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/university educators. (Source: NEA, *Arts Education in America: What the Declines Mean for Arts Participation*, 2011)
- **The NEA has supported military families** by partnering with Blue Star Families to present Blue Star Museums, offering free admission to active-duty military and their families, and a similar effort to launch Blue Star Theatres. Other NEA programs for the military have included Operation Homecoming, Great American Voices Military Base Tour, and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.
- **When public arts funding is lost, private dollars do not reliably pick up the slack.** Tough economic conditions mean less revenue from public, private, and corporate sources. Loss of support to arts organizations across the country during the recent recession has meant cuts in administrative costs and cuts to programs. Programs for lower-income populations and at-risk children are typically hit hard because a larger majority of their funding comes from public sources.

## BACKGROUND

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America's arts infrastructure, supported by a combination of government, business, foundation, and individual donors, is critical to the nation's well-being and economic vitality. In a striking example of federal/state partnership, the NEA distributes 40 percent of its program dollars to state arts agencies, with each state devoting its own appropriated funds to support arts programs throughout the state. This partnership ensures that each state has a stable source of arts funding and policy. These grants, combined with state legislative appropriations and other dollars, are distributed widely to strengthen arts infrastructures and ensure broad access to the arts.

For 50 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts through its core programs, including those for dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theater, visual arts, and other programs. Among the proudest accomplishments of the NEA is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that were previously underserved or not served at all, especially in rural and inner-city communities. Americans can now see professional productions and exhibitions of high quality in their own hometowns.

The NEA's appropriation has been held at \$146 million for the past four years. Current funding amounts to just 45 cents per capita, as compared to 70 cents per capita in 1992. The administration has requested a budget of \$147.9 for FY 2016, and both President Obama and the Senate Appropriations Committee have previously supported \$155 million for the NEA. The nonprofit arts community requests that the NEA be funded at \$155 million, which would provide support to the nonprofit arts sector in communities nationwide.