

Updates from NEA Research Labs Awarded in FY 2017 and FY 2018



[Drexel University](#)'s Arts Research on Chronic Stress Lab is concluding two studies examining the impact of creative arts therapies on health and social-emotional well-being. On the lab website, the team has posted reflections on its experiences so far. It is working on several manuscripts from the first two studies while preparing for three new studies—included in this announcement as a lab extension—to launch this summer.

[George Mason University](#)'s MasonARC Lab is measuring the outcomes of arts education in low-income, ethnically diverse high school students and the effect of theatre training on social skills and students' sense of agency. The lab [website](#) is live and the team is planning a fall 2019 conference of local artists, educators, and policy-makers to discuss current findings and to pool ideas for new research on the arts and child development.

[Indiana University—Purdue University, Indianapolis](#) has launched a [website](#) for its Arts Entrepreneurship and Innovation Lab and is engaged on several new research projects, including studies of artists' role in innovation and arts- and culture-related entrepreneurship. A [call for papers](#) for a 2020 symposium was released in early February 2019.

[University of Arkansas, Fayetteville](#) has been collecting and analyzing data on fourth- and fifth-graders to examine how arts-related field trips affect students' social and emotional outcomes. The lab also hosts a [regular blog](#) on arts and youth development research. A recent post discusses using plain language to create and maintain school partnerships.

[University of California, San Francisco](#)'s Sound and Music Perception Lab is conducting studies to identify neural substrates for creativity across a range of art forms. This lab's principal activity will involve collecting and analyzing brain imaging and psychological data from genius improvisers in music, the visual arts, and comedy. The researchers have posted lab-related content to their [website](#), and recently had a [review article](#) published by *Current Opinions in Behavioral Sciences*.

[University of Iowa's Rural Policy Research Institute](#) (RUPRI) The RUPRI Cultural Wealth Lab explores the intersection of rural arts and culture, entrepreneurship and innovation, and the role of cultural wealth within a Rural Wealth Creation and Distribution framework. Several new products are currently posted to its website.

[Vanderbilt University](#), with Northwestern University, has designed a national survey about the arts' relationship to creative attitudes and behaviors in the general population, and is currently analyzing the data. In addition, they recently completed in-depth interviews of Nashville-based creative artists who shared insights on approaches and challenges to creating a business and a community with their art. The lab published a draft [literature review](#) and is working on several other manuscripts.

[Vanderbilt University Medical Center](#)'s Music Cognition Lab and Program for Music, Mind, and Society are conducting two studies on social-emotional development and community building through music, particularly among families of children with and without autism spectrum disorder. For more information and to learn about upcoming events, see the lab's [website](#).