



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA) OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN - 2016

This Open Government Plan (the "Plan") is drafted in accordance with the Open Government Directive issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in December 2009, and Memorandum M-16-16, "2016 Agency Open Government Plans," issued by OMB on July 14, 2016. The Open Government Directive instructs executive departments and agencies to take specific actions to incorporate the principles of transparency, participation and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government issued on January 21, 2009.

The Open Government Directive requires that agencies update their Open Government Plans every two years. This Plan serves to update the NEA's Open Government Plan for 2016.

<http://arts.gov/open>

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### Highlights/Achievements Since the NEA's 2014 Open Government Plan

#### **NEA Website**

Since the 2014 Plan, the NEA has continued to refine and expand its [website](#) to make more information and content available to the general public. In 2014, the NEA added a special portal on its site, Exploring Our Town. This section was created in response to requests from the arts community for ready access to an easy-to-search resource on best practices in community development and creative placemaking. The resource is divided into two sections: Project Showcase, featuring more than 70 NEA Our Town projects organized by setting, type, and state; and Project Insights, divided by Project Process, Project Setting, and Project Type, including lessons learned, relevant case studies, and additional resources.

In September 2015, the NEA launched a new section on the website to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Among the many features found in the section, the NEA created an interactive timeline that highlights important grants and projects that the agency has supported over the last 50 years, and a collection of infographics and motion graphics to better highlight important aspects of the NEA's impact on the arts in the country for the general public. In January 2015, the agency began soliciting stories (in written, audio, and video forms) from the public, state arts agencies, and Congress on the importance of the arts in their lives and communities. This collection of crowd-sourced stories was put into an interactive map format so that the public could read, hear, and see the stories of people throughout the country who have been impacted by the arts. The NEA also created a series of Milestone Videos that elaborate on specific organizations and artists (that the NEA played a major role in supporting) that have impacted U.S. culture. Taken together, the section provides a compelling narrative of the importance of the arts (and the NEA's role in cultivating the arts) in the country.



### **Grants Management**

In 2013, the NEA instituted a new [grants search engine](#), which has made it easier for the general public to find grants that the agency has funded. Over the past few years, the NEA has continued to refine the search engine, making it easier to use and making the results easier to read and understand. This includes expanding the information about the grant that is being listed in the results, revising the results to make the information easier to read, and making PDFs, as well as the html web page version of the lists, available.

### **Research & Analysis Activities**

#### *Arts Data Profiles*

[Arts Data Profiles](#), all produced since the agency's last Open Government Plan, are collections of statistics, graphics, and summary results from data-mining about the arts.

#### *Research Infographics*

As part of the agency's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, the NEA has developed a series of [Research Infographics](#) and related motion graphics and fact sheets to make information about the NEA, its work, and the state of the arts in the U.S. more accessible and engaging to the public.

#### *Research: Art Works Grants Final Papers*

Since FY 2012, the NEA's Office of Research & Analysis has made annual awards under the [Research: Art Works grant program](#) to support research that investigates the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components within the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. By providing financial support to deserving projects, the NEA anticipates that this program will spur growth in the number of people experienced in and knowledgeable about arts-related research in the U.S. In addition to the Research: Art Works funding category, the NEA expects to begin providing support to transdisciplinary teams that can promote and share research agendas and deliverables with the public.

#### *NEA Research Grant Reports\**

Beginning in 2014, the NEA required all research grantees to submit a data management plan, ensuring appropriate storage and accessibility of data associated with NEA-sponsored research. Since the program's inception, the NEA has required grantees to submit reports of their research findings for display on the [NEA website](#). In addition, research grant applicants are scored partly on their plans to disseminate the research findings – and, where appropriate, the data – to broad and diverse audiences, including members of the general public. The NEA offers examples of successful application narratives for prospective grantees [here](#).

*\*The opinions expressed in these papers are those of the author(s) and do not represent the views of the Office of Research & Analysis or the NEA. The NEA does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information included in these reports and is not responsible for any consequence of their use.*



### *Annual Arts Basic Survey*

The Annual Arts Basic Survey (AABS) is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as a supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The AABS features selected summary questions drawn from the long-form Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), which is administered on a five-year basis, also as a supplement to the CPS. Although less detailed than the SPPA, the AABS provides, for the first time, annual estimates of U.S. participation in the arts. The AABS thus enables more frequent trend analysis than does the SPPA. To date, it has been fielded in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The AABS alternates between surveys capturing arts participation through attendance, and surveys denoting participation through personal performance and creation. NEA [ADP #10](#) and [ADP #11](#) highlight findings from the AABS and SPPA. (The AABS is not conducted in years when the SPPA occurs).

### *Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA)*

The [Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account \(ACPSA\)](#), produced jointly by the NEA's Office of Research & Analysis and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, is the first comprehensive and detailed measure of the arts and culture's contribution to the U.S. economy. The most recent wave of the ACPSA provides U.S. estimates for every year, 1998 to 2013. The ACPSA includes: inflation-adjusted value added by industries producing arts and cultural services; the number of workers employed to produce these commodities; and consumption of arts and cultural goods and services. The next ACPSA release, planned for early 2017, will feature state estimates of ACPSA employment and compensation. Future waves will include state estimates of ACPSA value added to Gross State Product. In addition, the NEA and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies plan to collaborate on user-friendly data visualization tools to allow state arts agencies to more effectively access the ACPSA data at the state level, and to make appropriate comparisons across states.

### *A Decade of Arts Engagement: Findings From the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, 2002–2012*

This [report](#), published in 2015, synthesizes findings across several modes of arts participation (attending the visual and performing arts, reading literature, creating/performing art, using digital media to consume art, and learning within the arts) to show how many American adults – and from which backgrounds – have engaged in art throughout the decade of 2002 to 2012. The report is based on the NEA's Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau.



## New and Expanded NEA Open Government Initiatives

### **Open Data (and Other Publicly Available Information Resources)**

#### *Annual Reports Data Inventory (1966-1983)*

This new effort will assess data that is reported in earlier narrative annual reports, a necessary prerequisite to transforming the information into publicly available machine readable data files for statistical analysis. The assessment will: a) identify data elements in these early annual reports that are relevant for program assessment and policy research; b) identify data elements that are reported consistently enough to allow for quantification and trend analysis; and c) where possible, match identified data elements in these earlier Annual Reports to variables that are already a part of the agency's existing data inventories.

#### *The National Arts Policy Archive and Library: National Endowment for the Arts Special Collection*

The NEA has authorized the Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to digitize more than forty years of NEA publications on the arts and arts management. The [National Endowment for the Arts Special Collection](#) reflects the impact of the arts on the everyday lives of Americans and includes materials intended to support individual and classroom education, information on arts management, and reports on the status of the arts, along with several histories of the organization. The collection has been organized into fourteen categories reflecting the programs and priorities of the NEA. All titles are catalogued in the UMass Amherst Libraries online catalog and are included in the Internet Archive, where they are available for full-text searching.

#### *National Archive of Data on Arts and Culture*

The [National Archive of Data on Arts and Culture \(NADAC\)](#) is a repository that facilitates research on arts and culture by acquiring data, particularly those funded by federal agencies and other organizations, and sharing those data with researchers, policymakers, people in the arts and culture field, and the general public. NADAC is one of several topical archives hosted by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the largest social science data archive in the world and part of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Because NADAC is funded by the NEA, users obtain data from NADAC at no charge.

#### *Evaluation Resources for NEA Applicants*

Provided on the NEA website are links to [program evaluation resources](#) for grant applicants and awardees. This information supports the incorporation of evaluation and evidence-based decision-making in arts projects funded by the NEA. It will be updated within the next several months.

#### *Arts Education Collective Impact Logic Model /Shared Measurement Framework*

The NEA will bring together its Arts Education Collective Impact grantees to help them construct a logic model that will lead to a common shared measurement framework. Developing a common measurement system across grant projects is an important goal for the NEA, and it would position the Collective Impact program to use grantee data for outcome evaluation in the near future. Importantly, products generated from these exercises will be shared with the public.



*Artistic Aging: How the Arts Support Older Americans' Health and Well-being [working title]*

This publication will analyze and report on arts and cultural data from the 2014 Health and Retirement Study (HRS) to pursue the following two specific lines of inquiry: 1) The various types and levels of arts participation among older adults; and 2) The relationship between arts participation and health and well-being.

*NEA Guide to Community-Based Research on the Arts and Health [working title]*

This guide will be a web-based resource that is expected to equally serve community-based arts practitioners (including arts therapists) and biomedical or behavioral researchers who want to study the arts' efficacy and effectiveness as a health intervention. Such a resource could contain networking tools to bring community arts organizations, artists, and arts therapists into contact with biomedical or behavioral researchers, and vice versa. It could feature news about the latest funding opportunities within government and/or the private sector for research and practice concerning the arts and health. Lastly, it could provide practical guidance to community arts practitioners (including arts therapists) about how to partner more successfully with academic/private researchers, while advising academic/private researchers how to partner more successfully with community arts practitioners (including arts therapists).

*American Housing Survey (AHS) Analysis and Report*

NEA will produce a Summary Report and Technical User's Guide (with accompanying data dictionary and data files) for the 2015 American Housing Survey's (AHS) arts and cultural data. These products will enable the NEA and other researchers to examine the value and impact of arts and cultural amenities for individuals and neighborhoods.

**Accessibility**

The launch of the agency's new Drupal-based website in September 2014 improved overall NEA website accessibility, including better and consistently structured documents and mandatory alt tags for images. Since 2014, the NEA's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) has begun focusing on making all PDF documents and reports published by OPA thoroughly accessible, and the agency continues to live-caption webcasts through a contract with National Captioning Institute. The [50th anniversary United States of Arts state arts agency videos](#), with a few exceptions, and the current Milestone videos, have all been captioned.

The NEA is committed to continually assessing ways to make its information more accessible to the public and adopting new approaches for accessibility, including looking at data visualization software for maps, charts, etc.; determining whether some publications could also be made into e-publications as well as PDFs to make them more accessible to mobile users; looking at how to add audio description to online videos; and looking into the possibility of apps to make certain aspects of the website easier to find and use by mobile users.

**Privacy**

Information regarding the agency's privacy program is located on our website, at [Privacy Policy](#) and [Privacy Impact Assessment](#). The [Systems of Records Notice](#) details the systems utilized by the NEA and the manner in which they are maintained. Individuals seeking an amendment to Privacy Act records or access to them can file a request through the Office of General Counsel, which administers the Freedom of Information Act Program; more information can be found at [Privacy Act Guide](#).



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### **Whistleblower Protection**

In May 2015, the NEA successfully completed the U.S. Office of Special Counsel’s (OSC) requirements and received agency certification in meeting the statutory obligation to inform employees about their rights and remedies under the provisions of 5 USC 2302 covering Prohibited Personnel Practices (PPP) and the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). Required information posters from the OSC website are posted on employee bulletin boards. The NEA provides information and guidance to new employees as part of the orientation process, and to current employees, supervisors, and managers annually, which meets the requirements of OSC. The NEA has [a section regarding Whistleblower Protection laws on its website](#), along with a link to [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).

### **Spending Information**

In accordance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act), NEA will report additional financial information to USAspending.gov (or its successor site) starting in FY 2017, expanding the pool of federal financial assistance data available to the public. The NEA will continue to use the information currently provided to USAspending.gov, as well as the new data elements required by the DATA Act, to inform internal management and decision-making processes, including creating budget requests and allocating funds to grant programs and initiatives.

### **Collaboration**

#### *Community Solutions*

NEA has joined agencies across the federal government on a new approach to engaging with communities, called “community solutions.” This approach to comprehensive community strategies focuses on federal resources and assistance in high-need areas, tailoring solutions based on strong local partnerships, improving coordination among federal agencies, and relying on data and evidence to guide their work. As a result of unique federal partnerships and creative initiatives, in more than 1,800 rural, tribal, and urban communities nationwide, federal employees are helping tackle challenges as varied as climate change and entrenched poverty. These initiatives include Promise Zones; Strong Cities, Strong Communities; Citizens Institute on Rural Design; Mayors’ Institute on City Design; and ad-hoc city-based federal working groups. The NEA is among 16 federal agencies that signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to improve collaboration across the Federal government in support of local communities’ efforts to build better outcomes. This MOA streamlines and strengthens the ability of Federal agencies to provide collaborative assistance across typically siloed mission areas. Additionally, 12 NEA staff participated in a 3-day “Delivering Outcomes for Communities” training program aimed at federal staff to provide skill development and perspectives to improve outcomes for communities.

#### *Healing Arts and the Military*

Two federal agencies – the NEA and the Department of Defense – are working together to invest in programs and research that will expand clinical and community-based arts programs that serve military personnel, veterans, and their families. The in-development NEA Military Healing Arts Network is an expansion of the NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership that launched in 2011. The expansion brings healing arts to service members, veterans, and families in clinical and community settings through a standardized Creative Arts Therapies program in ten new medical treatment facilities across the nation, and support for therapeutic arts engagement in community settings. As part of the expansion, rigorous research studies on the impact of creative arts therapies will be funded.



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### **Discipline Directors' Convenings**

Since November 2014, NEA artistic field directors have hosted several meetings focused on specific topics to benefit constituents, fields, and ultimately the public. While most of the meetings have occurred at agency headquarters in Washington, DC, two have occurred in New York City, one in Los Angeles, and one online. The meetings have included an exploration of Literary Publishing in the Digital Age; the Role of Arts Presenters in Communities in Conflict; highlighting opportunities for Deaf artists in the theater and musical theater fields and identifying barriers to employment in the arts for people with disabilities; the impact of Creative Placemaking on communities; and developing guidance on Emergency Preparedness, Resilience, and Recovery for Arts Organizations facing natural disasters. Some of these sessions have resulted in public reports, information disseminated to particular fields, and resources posted for the public on the agency's website. The agency intends to conduct additional convenings in FY 2017.



## Ongoing NEA Open Government Initiatives

### **Open Data**

#### *Public Data Sources*

The NEA offers a list of publicly accessible data sources [here](#) on its website that include arts-related variables (some restrictions may apply). This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

#### *NEA-Commissioned or Authored Research Reports*

For [current and future studies](#) about the value and impact of the arts, the NEA will post to its website not only a PDF of the report but also, when available, spreadsheets and other data files underlying any illustrated tables or charts. These tables and charts will be interactive so that users may manipulate/isolate/arrange data in meaningful ways. All NEA research reports are publicly available on the website as PDFs or, if still available, in print form.

### **Public Notice**

#### *Grants Webinars*

The NEA provides webinars on the various grants it awards, allowing potential applicants to interact with staff about the grant guidelines. All guidelines are on the agency's website with deadlines, press releases, and a variety of resources to help applicants. The guidelines are also posted on Grants.gov and promoted on social media. In addition, the NEA holds various grants workshops throughout the year, both in person and virtually, to help inform potential applicants about grant opportunities. The agency also hosts discussions at various arts-related conferences during the year on grant opportunities.

#### *Interaction with the Public*

The NEA also interacts with the public through webinars on various topics of interest, its social media channels (which have expanded from Facebook and Twitter to include YouTube and Instagram), and the creation of a separate Twitter account for the chairman. In addition, all audio and video material is available for free on iTunes U. All of these channels allow the general public to learn more about the NEA and the arts in their communities, as well as interact with the NEA directly.

#### *National Council on the Arts*

The National Council on the Arts (NCA) is statutorily mandated to advise the Chairman of the NEA with respect to applications for financial assistance, and with respect to policies, programs, and procedures of the agency. The NCA meets three times per year – usually in March, June, and October. Meetings are scheduled in relation to decision points in acting on applications as well as program guidelines, budgets, and other policies and procedures which require NCA advice. The open sessions of the NCA meetings are [publicized](#) on the agency's web site, through press releases, and through notices in the Federal Register approximately 30 days prior to the meetings, which are webcast. The majority of the NCA's work relates to making recommendations for funding of grants and cooperative agreements, as well as reviewing and approving the guidelines under which applications are submitted to the agency. Once all recommendations are final, following review by the Chairman of the NEA, all [recommendations for funding and advisory panel members](#) are listed on the agency's web site, and the agency's Public Affairs Office sends out a variety of press releases announcing recommended grant awards. The NCA also recommends individuals and organizations to receive the [National Medal of Arts](#), a Presidential award



in recognition of outstanding contributions to the arts in the United States; members of the public are welcome to make nominations for NCA consideration.

#### *Quarterly Newsletters*

Several NEA offices distribute quarterly newsletters to their list serves. Newsletters are currently published by the Office of Research & Analysis, as well as various discipline offices, including Design, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literature, Media Arts, Museums, Theater & Musical Theater, and Visual Arts. The public can sign up to receive any of the newsletters by email.

#### *Taking Note – Office of Research & Analysis’ Monthly Blog*

A monthly [blog](#) on a wide range of noteworthy, research-related topics on the NEA’s website.

#### **Records Management**

In FY 2016, the NEA sent 100 archive boxes of temporary records to the Federal Records Center for storage. All FY16 temporary and permanent records will be digitized; the records will be maintained on a server in the NEA Data Center, and access will be strictly controlled. All files will be backed-up each evening, and will be stored at the NEA continuity of operations (COOP) site. In accordance with National Archives and Records Administration’s Managing Government Records Directive, M-12-18, NEA has initiated the management of all designated emails in an electronic format. NEA will be fully compliant with this requirement by December 2016. Additionally, as of June 2016, NEA approved the disposition of 1,822 cubic feet of temporary records that had reached the designated eligibility for disposal. This will save approximately \$5,028 in FY17. NEA’s Records Management website page can be found [here](#).

#### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests**

The NEA’s [FOIA Page](#) is a user-friendly tool for information seekers to learn about FOIA, understand the FOIA process, review FOIA exemptions, browse the FOIA reading room (which includes sample applications), submit requests, etc. FOIA requests come directly to the NEA’s Office of General Counsel for review and response.

#### **Congressional Requests**

Requests for information from Members of Congress and their staff are handled by the NEA’s Office of the Chief of Staff, either through direct staff contact or by emailing [neacongressionalaffairs@arts.gov](mailto:neacongressionalaffairs@arts.gov). The Congressional Liaison works with other appropriate Agency staff to compile the requested information and provide it to the requesting Congressional office.

#### **Public Participation**

##### *Events*

The agency continues its tradition of producing public events honoring recipients of lifetime achievement awards – [NEA Jazz Masters](#) and [NEA National Heritage Fellows](#). The recipients of these awards are selected based on nominations received from members of the public. The events include award ceremonies for recipients and invited guests, as well as free concerts that are open to the public. NEA Heritage Fellows shared their artistic achievements with the public in October 2014 and October 2015 in concert at Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC. NEA Jazz Masters were honored at free public concerts in January 2015 at Lincoln Center in New York City, and in April 2016 at the Kennedy Center in



Washington, DC. These annual events are planned once again in Washington, DC in September 2016 for NEA National Heritage Fellows, and in April 2017 for NEA Jazz Masters.

#### *Document Access*

The NEA makes all its public documents [available on its website](#), including its budgets, performance reports, annual reports, strategic plan, and FOIA requests.

#### *Public Feedback*

The NEA will be developing a new strategic plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022. NEA's previous strategic plan can be viewed [here](#). Over the next several months, a strategic planning team will meet with agency staff to draft a plan and solicit public feedback later in FY 2017.

Since FY 2013, the NEA has administered the NEA applicant survey. The survey is conducted to provide the agency with a snapshot of how applicants view their most recent experience using and understanding the grant application guidelines on the NEA website. When applicable, applicants also evaluate the usefulness of guideline webinars as well as the quality of interactions with NEA staff while preparing applications. The survey gives the agency a valuable mechanism for feedback from applicants that can be used to inform the agency's future interactions with applicants. An overall applicant satisfaction rate is calculated and is reported in the agency's Annual Performance Report.

#### *Panel Participation*

The public is integrated heavily into the panel review process. For example, panels are comprised of individuals who possess a broad range of artistic and cultural points of view and include members representing a wide range of ethnic and geographic diversity. The NEA is also making it easier for potential panelists to participate in the NEA review process by holding virtual panel meetings, which has eliminated the need (and cost) of panelists traveling to Washington, DC to participate. All panel meetings conducted annually for review of State Arts Agency and Regional Arts Organization partnership applications are open to the public, accessible by telephone or video conference. Awards to these organizations represent 40 percent of the NEA's budget for grantmaking. All panel meetings are announced in the Federal Register.

#### **Collaboration**

##### *The Arts and Human Development Task Force*

Beginning in 2011, the NEA has convened a [Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development](#) to encourage more and better research on how the arts can help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. Task force members represent multiple units across federal government, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education, among others. The Task Force meets quarterly to share ideas and information about research gaps and opportunities for understanding the arts' role in improving health and educational outcomes throughout the lifespan. To date, the Task Force has conducted a series of public webinars on compelling research, practices, and interdisciplinary collaborations. In 2015, Task Force members initiated a literature review of the social and emotional benefits of the arts in early childhood, leading to an [NEA research report](#) on that topic. Currently, the Task Force is developing a public directory of federal funding resources for researchers studying the arts and human development.



*Juvenile Justice Guide, Crimes Solutions Database, and Literature Review*

Earlier this year, NEA staff worked with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support a [literature review](#) about arts-based programs and arts therapies for at-risk, justice-involved, or traumatized youth. In addition, the NEA helped OJJDP to identify [specific arts programs](#) (there are 10 so far) that can be tagged and displayed as part of its online “Model Programs Guide” to evidence-based programs for these populations.

*Federal Bureau of Prisons*

The NEA has an ongoing interagency agreement with the Federal Bureau of Prisons supporting artists in residence in 6 federal prisons.

*U.S. Department of Labor*

The NEA partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy to host an online dialogue on promoting careers in the arts for people with disabilities, yielding participation by 134 people in 47 states.



## NEA Flagship Initiative

### Creativity Connects

As part of the NEA's 50th anniversary, the agency launched the leadership initiative, *Creativity Connects* (*Creativity Connects™* is used with permission from Crayola, LLC). This initiative shows how the arts contribute to the nation's creative ecosystem, investigates the ways in which support systems for artists are changing, and explores how the arts can connect with other sectors that want and utilize creativity.

The initiative has three components: a report on the trends and conditions affecting U.S. artists today, a new grant opportunity within the Art Works category to support partnerships between arts and non-arts organizations, and an interactive digital graphic that visually demonstrates the "bright spots" – or successful projects – of arts and non-arts sector collaborations. These three components can all be found on the NEA website in the [50th Anniversary section](#).

*Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Affecting U.S. Artists* is a contemporary overview of changing artistic practices and the emerging landscape of support for artists and creatives. The purpose of this report is to update the findings of the Urban Institute's 2003 study, *Investing in Creativity*, which identified support systems necessary for artists, including material supports, validation, markets, networks, training, and information. While the framework outlined in that report remains useful, it is clear that many aspects of the environment and market for artists' work have changed profoundly in the past decade, including developments in technologies, public perceptions of creative workers, marketplace opportunities, demographics, and aesthetic practices. To help inform the report, the researchers also used a series of blog posts by critical thinkers from the field to garner public comment. There were more than 157 comments on the blog posts overall, with many more comments on Facebook and more than 4.3 million Twitter impressions.

The NEA also hosted ten all-day roundtables around the country in FY 2016 to engage with constituents of our State Arts Agency partners on the topic of creativity. The goal of the roundtable discussions was for NEA to understand how, at the local level:

- the arts are central to the country's creativity ecosystem
- support systems for the arts have changed, or need to change
- the arts connect with other sectors (e.g., agriculture, business, community, education, environment, health, military, science, technology, and transportation) and ways in which we might spark new ideas for the field.

The agency hosted roundtables in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Los Angeles, California; Helena, Montana; Omaha, Nebraska; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Des Moines, Iowa; Lexington, Kentucky; Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Boston, Massachusetts. NEA invited 229 members of the public to attend the roundtables; more than 150 participated, in addition to approximately 70 staff members from the 10 State Arts Agencies who co-hosted.

Art Works: Creativity Connects grants are a pilot grant opportunity that will support partnerships between arts organizations and organizations from non-arts sectors that include, but are not limited to, agriculture, business, community, education, environment, health, military, science, technology, and



transportation. Grants awarded through this pilot grant program are designed to demonstrate the value of the arts when they're working with non-arts sectors and support the infrastructure components for the arts, so that they will be able to work in new ways with other sectors. It is also designed to connect – to build bridges that create new relationships and constituencies between the arts and other sectors and support creating innovative projects that advance the arts when they're connected to other non-arts fields.

The interactive digital graphic presents bright spot projects, ones that are successful representations of arts/non-arts collaborations, in a variety of ways. The user can choose an arts sector from the provided list, and get a list of non-arts sectors for which there are bright spot projects. You can then choose one of the non-arts sectors listed and get a list of the bright spots with a short description of the project and a link to their website, where you can get more information. You can also search starting from the non-arts sectors. Additionally, you can look up bright spots by state. This provides the arts community as well as the general public exemplary examples of how the arts contribute to the nation's creative ecosystem. The NEA will continue to add bright spots to the site as they are identified.