The Albany Symphony Orchestra in New York annually presents the American Music Festival, a five-day event highlighting the works of living U.S. composers, supported by the NEA.

Photo courtesy of the Albany Symphony
April 15, 2018

Dear Mr. President:

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for Fiscal Year 2017.

Since it was established by Congress in 1965, the NEA has awarded more than $5 billion to strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

The activities highlighted in this report illustrate the Arts Endowment’s continuing commitment to making the arts a vital part of the lifeblood of this nation. I am confident that as we continue to invest in the arts, we are investing in the very things that make this country great: creativity, inspiration, and hard work.

Jane Chu
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
As Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 started, the National Endowment for the Arts was named the Best Place to Work in the Federal Government in the small department and agencies category. In fact, the NEA had the highest score of any of the places to work, regardless of size, in the survey by the Partnership for Public Service and Deloitte. And the agency’s score increased by more than 16 percent from the previous year, moving up from 11th place to first. As NEA Chairman Jane Chu noted, “This year’s rating increase is a testament to the outstanding work of our valued employees.”

As FY 2017 progressed, the National Endowment for the Arts was quick to respond to the unprecedented devastation of three strong hurricanes hitting Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The NEA provided emergency funding of nearly $1 million to the state arts agencies in those areas, developed in response to damage assessments and consultation with local residents and organizations. NEA funds have been allocated to areas and residents that may not have ready access to other sources of monetary assistance, and are designated for artists and nonprofit arts organizations in those devastated areas. The assistance continued through 2017 and into 2018, with NEA staff participating in regular conference calls with local organizations to monitor the relief efforts.

Chairman Chu displays the plaque recognizing the NEA as the best place to work in the federal government for small departments and agencies. NEA File Photo
In FY 2017, the NEA released two publications that offered assistance to the arts field. *How to Do Creative Placemaking*, released in December 2016, featured 28 instructional essays from thought leaders in arts-based community development as well as 13 case studies from projects funded through the agency's creative placemaking grant program, Our Town. In August 2017, the NEA released *State of the Field: A Report from the Documentary Sustainability Summit*, which detailed the key challenges in the documentary film field, illuminating them through case studies, and offering actions to strengthen the field and support filmmakers.
In FY 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts budget increased nearly $2 million to $149,849,000, with money specifically allocated for the expansion of Creative Forces, the NEA military healing arts program. The NEA awarded nearly 2,500 grants throughout the year, in every Congressional district in the country, as well as awarding lifetime achievement awards, NEA Literature Fellowships, and distributing 40 percent of its funds through state and regional partnerships. Almost 43 million adults and 8.3 million children engaged with the arts throughout the year through live events produced by NEA-funded projects. Approximately 40 percent of NEA-supported activities took place in high poverty neighborhoods, and an estimated 13 percent took place in rural America.

The first Creativity Connects grants were awarded in FY 2017, totaling $2.5 million. The 37 grants supported partnerships between arts organizations and organizations from non-arts sectors, including healthcare, nutrition, science, technology, and more.

The Challenge America grant program, which focuses on local projects by small or mid-sized organizations to reach underserved populations, awarded 132 grants in 40 states in FY 2017, totaling $1.3 million.

The NEA awarded 89 Our Town grants in FY 2017 to support creative placemaking around the country. Totaling almost $6.9 million, the grants support partnerships of artists, arts organizations, and municipal governments that work to revitalize neighborhoods. This practice places arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies to address a community’s challenges.

The Sew Much Love program, created by the Blues City Cultural Center, provides art-making opportunities for homeless women in Memphis, Tennessee. Photo by Nelligene Hardwick, Last Dream Productions
In FY 2017, the NEA awarded 37 NEA Literature Fellowships in creative writing for poetry, totaling $925,000. Fellows hail from 19 states, from the deep South to the inner cities to tribal lands. In addition, 23 NEA Literature Fellowships in translation were awarded to support new translations of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from 13 different languages into English. Since 1981, the NEA has awarded 433 translation fellowships to 383 translators on works representing 67 languages and 81 countries.

All grants for FY 2017 can be found through our online grant search, which allows users to search with various criteria for any NEA grants from 1998 to the present. For grants earlier than that, users can find listings of grants in Annual Reports from 1965 to 1997.
Pursuant to federal law, 40 percent of NEA funds are awarded to state arts agencies (SAAs) and regional arts organizations (RAOs). With these grants, the SAAs/RAOs are able to fund arts education programs, regional touring projects, and arts activities in underserved communities, among many other activities. In recent years, more than 4,400 communities have been served each year through grants made possible by these agreements.

The SAAs also facilitate the statewide contests for the NEA initiative, Poetry Out Loud (POL), presented in partnership with the Poetry Foundation. The event culminates with semi-finals and national finals held in Washington, DC, which are webcast live. Approximately 310,000 students and 8,000 teachers from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands participated in the program during the 2016-2017 school year. In April 2017, Georgia State POL Champion Samara Elán Huggins, a high school senior at Whitefield Academy in Mableton, was named the national champion. Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, a regional arts organization, administers the national finals.

Regional arts organization Arts Midwest plays an important role in two NEA initiatives: NEA Big Read and Shakespeare in American Communities. For 2017-18, NEA Big Read, the initiative that broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book, awarded grants totaling more than $1 million to 75 organizations in 32 states. Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,400 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than $19 million in grants to organizations nationwide. In addition, Big Read activities have reached every Congressional district in the country. Over the past eleven years, grantees have leveraged more than $42 million in local...
funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 4.8 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 79,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 37,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible.

**Shakespeare in American Communities**, which introduces middle and high school students to live Shakespeare productions, awarded grants to 40 theater companies in 26 states and the District of Columbia to produce plays and accompanying educational material during the 2017-2018 season. Since the program’s inception in 2003, Shakespeare in American Communities has introduced 2.5 million middle and high school students to the power of live theater and the masterpieces of William Shakespeare through performances and educational activities.

In addition to partnerships on the state and regional levels, the NEA collaborates with other agencies on the federal level.

**Blue Star Museums** is an important joint initiative among the NEA, the Department of Defense, and Blue Star Families that offers free museum admission to active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Annually, more than 2,000 museums participate, reaching an estimated 900,000 people across the country.

Another partnership with the Department of Defense is **Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network**. The initiative began in 2011 to support creative arts therapies for service members and their families at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center – Bethesda, Maryland, a facility dedicated to serving combat veterans with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions. The program then expanded to the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital’s NICoE satellite at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in 2013. The

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A mask made by combat veteran Marcie McCammond as part of her art therapy in a Creative Forces session. Photo courtesy of Marcie McCammond
success of the initiative led to Congress allocating a nearly $2 million budget increase in both FY 2016 and FY 2017 for expansion of the program.

Creative Forces now has clinical sites at 11 military bases throughout the country, and one telehealth program that will provide services for patients in rural and remote areas. In 2017, nearly 2,000 service members, veterans, and family members received care in more than 10,000 arts therapy sessions through Creative Forces.

In addition to supporting arts therapy at the clinical settings, the NEA is building community-based support networks around each of the sites to provide military and veteran families with arts opportunities and a transition from clinic to community for former patients. In FY 2017, the NEA held two summits to bring together the military and arts communities, with eight more scheduled for FY 2018.

A third component of Creative Forces will include research on the impacts and benefits—physical, emotional, and economic—of these innovative treatment methods.

As part of the Library of Congress’ National Book Festival held in Washington, DC in September 2017, the NEA’s Poetry and Prose Pavilion featured conversations with some of our nation’s finest writers—many of whom are NEA Literature Fellows—discussing their books and lives as writers. The events began with the three top 2017 Poetry Out Loud state champions having a conversation with poet Adrian Matejka, one of the finals judges, about their experiences in the competition. The stage also included interviews with U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera and with Ernest Gaines, both NEA Literature Fellows. A series of conversations between writers were presented as well: Marie Howe and Adrian Matejka; Brad Watson and Bill Roorbach; Julia Glass and Jennifer Haigh; and Peter Ho Davies and Lisa Ho. In addition, a panel discussion on Ernest Hemingway was presented.

Building on the trip to Cuba in 2016 by the NEA and other arts agencies, Southern Exposure, a public-private program by the NEA with the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, included Cuban performing arts groups in the program for the first time. Grants were awarded in 2017 to support 85 engagements across the United States by performing arts companies from Cuba; Venezuela; Dominican Republic; and a collective from Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras in 2017-2018. The goal of the program is to build greater appreciation and understanding of Latin America by presenting exemplary performing artists to audiences across the United States who might not have access to this work.
The Arts Endowment continued to make its public events accessible to all through the use of social media and the internet. Both lifetime honors events—NEA National Heritage Fellowships and NEA Jazz Masters—were webcast live. Archived videos of the events are available on the NEA YouTube channel.

The NEA National Heritage Fellowships concert took place in September 2017 at the George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC. The concert included performances by bomba and plena musician Modesto Cepeda, Danish button accordionist Dwight Lamb, buckdancer Thomas Maupin, blues harmonica player Phil Wiggins, conjunto accordionist Eva Ybarra, and tribute performances for children's folk singer Ella Jenkins and Hawaiian slack-key guitarist Cyril Pahinui. The craft work of Armenian repoussé metal artist Norik Astvatsaturov and Chilkat weaver Anna Brown Ehlers was also featured. The archive of the event can be found on arts.gov.

2017 NEA National Heritage Fellow Modesto Cepeda performing with his group at the awards concert in Washington, DC. Photo by Tom Pich
The **NEA Jazz Masters** tribute concert occurred in April 2018 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in Washington, DC. To honor the new class of Todd Barkan, Joanne Brackeen, Pat Metheny, and Dianne Reeves, performers included NEA Jazz Master Eddie Palmieri, as well as Terri Lyne Carrington, James Francies, Christian McBride, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Antonio Sanchez, and Angelique Kidjo, among others. The [archive](https://arts.gov) of the event can be found on [arts.gov](https://arts.gov).
The NEA Office of Research and Analysis (ORA) continued its review of the arts and culture sector's contribution to the economy this past year via its online series of Arts Data Profiles (ADPs), releasing its latest figures from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account. Results from 2014, the most recent year that information was available in FY 2017, revealed that the arts and culture sector contributed almost $730 billion, or 4.2 percent, to the U.S. economy that year. Between 1998 and 2014, the contribution of arts and culture to the nation's gross domestic product grew by more than 35 percent. For the first time, the BEA data included arts and cultural employment and compensation on a state level as well.

Other Profiles included a look at state-level estimates of arts and cultural employment, and a study on the health benefits of arts participation on older adults, tied to the NEA research report Staying Engaged: Health Patterns of Older Americans Who Participate in the Arts, released in September 2017. That report described arts participation patterns of older adults (aged 55 and over) and their health characteristics.

The NEA Office of Research and Analysis awarded 14 grants in FY 2017 for research on the value and impact of the arts in the United States, totaling $540,000. The projects include one study that is examining the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional effects of music engagement on low-income, older adults. Another study is looking at the outcomes of high-quality, intensive theater education for adolescents. At the conclusion of all of the projects, the grantees will submit a report of their findings, methods, and data sources.

In FY 2017, ORA announced the first projects funded through a new program, NEA Research Labs. The cross-sector projects supported through the program investigate how the arts contribute to positive outcomes for individuals and communities. Four labs were funded out of 44 applications, totaling $598,600: Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas; University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa; and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

ORA continued to convene the task force of 13 federal agencies and departments, the Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development, which works to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. In FY 2017, a new publication was produced responding to a need identified by the task force. The report, The NEA Guide to Community-Engaged Research in the Arts and Health, advises arts practitioners and biomedical or behavioral health researchers how to partner effectively in documenting and studying the contributions of community-based arts programs to positive health outcomes.
The NEA has continued to interact with the general public and its constituents on several levels on the internet. The NEA produces the Art Works blog, putting up more than 200 posts annually that include interviews with artists, spotlights on arts projects, and guest artist posts. The NEA also produces the weekly Art Works podcasts, which features audio interviews with artists and arts leaders. In addition, the NEA publishes a quarterly magazine, NEA Arts, which includes special audio and video features for its online version. Altogether, these various communication methods inform and engage with the American people about arts activities and artists in communities across the country, showcasing the importance of the arts to the vitality of the nation.

The NEA continues to interact with the general public through our social media channels. Content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube reaches an increasingly larger audience with each year.

The agency also interacts with the field in a more in-depth way through the monthly and quarterly newsletters it sends out to the arts community, containing information about specific arts disciplines. The Office of Public Affairs also sends out a monthly newsletter, ArtMatters, to the arts community on what is happening at the agency and in the arts in general.

The NEA has continued webcasting its National Council on the Arts meetings as well as NEA events such as the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, the NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert, and the NEA National Heritage Fellowships Concert.
## SUMMARY OF FUNDS AVAILABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Program Funds</td>
<td>119,177,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Balance, Prior Year &lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8,525,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfederal Gifts &lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,113,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interagency Transfers &lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>643,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong></td>
<td>129,458,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong> &lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3,156,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SALARIES &amp; EXPENSES FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong> &lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>35,513,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong> &lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>168,129,454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Includes FY 2016 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2017, prior year deobligations carried forward into FY 2017, and funds newly available in FY 2017, as applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers including FY 2016 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2017, prior year deobligations brought forward into FY 2017, and funds newly available in FY 2017, as applicable.

<sup>3</sup> Includes nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers held on behalf of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.
## Summary of Funds Obligated for FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creation of Art</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Endowment Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Support</td>
<td>$11,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenge America</td>
<td>$540</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Creation of Art</strong></td>
<td>$11,565</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Engaging with Art</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Endowment Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenge America</td>
<td>$7,247</td>
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<td><strong>Total Engaging with Art</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promoting Knowledge</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Endowment Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Support</td>
<td>$5,232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenge America</td>
<td>$33</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Promoting Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>$5,265</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Partnerships for the Arts</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Regional Partnerships</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Plan Support</td>
<td>$39,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underserved</td>
<td>$10,212</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Partnerships for the Arts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Funds Obligated</strong></td>
<td>$128,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Support Funds Obligated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program &amp; Program Support Funds Obligated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Salaries &amp; Expenses Funds Obligated</strong></td>
<td>$29,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS OBLIGATED</strong></td>
<td>$159,211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers

2 Includes funds obligated on behalf of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.
Jane Chu  
Chairman,  
National Endowment for the Arts

Bruce Carter, Ph.D.  
Arts Researcher  
Miami Beach, FL  
Term: 2013-2018

Aaron Dworkin  
Violinist/Music Educator  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Term: 2011-2014

Lee Greenwood  
Performer/Songwriter  
Nashville, TN  
Term: 2008-2014

Deepa Gupta  
Philanthropic Professional  
Chicago, IL  
Term: 2012-2016

Paul Hodes  
Attorney/Musician/Former Congressman  
Concord, NH  
Term: 2012-2016

Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D.  
Urban Planning & Community Policy Specialist  
Los Angeles, CA  
Term: 2013-2016

Emil J. Kang  
Music Professor/Arts Administrator  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Term: 2012-2018

Charlotte Kessler  
Patron/Trustee  
Columbus, OH  
Term: 2006-2012

Maria López De León  
Arts Administrator  
San Antonio, TX  
Term: 2013-2016

Rick Lowe  
Artist, Community Organizer  
Houston, TX  
Term: 2013-2018

David “Mas” Masumoto  
Organic Farmer/Author  
Del Rey, CA  
Term: 2013-2018

Barbara Ernst Prey  
Visual Artist  
Oyster Bay, NY  
Term: 2008-2014

Ranee Ramaswamy  
Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher  
Minneapolis, MN  
Term: 2013-2018

Diane Rodriguez  
Producer, Actor, Writer  
Los Angeles, CA  
Term: 2016-2022

Tom Rothman  
Film Industry Executive  
Los Angeles, CA  
Term: 2016

Olga Viso  
Museum Director  
Minneapolis, MN  
Term: 2013-2018

NOTE: Council members continue to serve even after their terms expire until their replacements are confirmed by the Senate.

Ex-Officio Members, United States Congress

Tammy Baldwin  
(D-WI)

Chellie Pingree  
(D-ME)

Appointment by Majority and Minority leadership of the remaining Members of Congress to the Council is pending.
NEA DISCIPLINE DIRECTORS
(as of April 15, 2017)

Music & Opera
Ann Meier Baker

Accessibility
Beth Bienvenu

Museums, Visual Arts, and Indemnity
Wendy Clark

Media Arts
Jax Deluca

Acting Director Local Arts Agencies & Challenge America/Division Coordinator
Jennifer Lindow Eskin

Arts Education
Ayanna N. Hudson

Acting Design and Creative Placemaking Director, Community Solutions Specialist
Jen Hughes

Acting Dance Director, Division Coordinator
Jennifer Kareliusson

Folk & Traditional Arts
Clifford Murphy

Artist Communities, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, International Activities Coordinator
Michael Orlove

Theater & Musical Theater
Greg Reiner

Literature
Amy Stolls
The Pittsburgh Opera world-premiere production of The Summer King by Dan Sonenberg, supported by an NEA grant. The opera’s development and original staged concert by Portland Ovations in Maine was also supported by the NEA. Photo by David Bachman © 2017, courtesy of Pittsburgh Opera