

The National Endowment for the Arts is committed to providing assistance to artist communities for projects that encourage and nurture the development of individual artists and foster and inspire their creative processes.

NEA funding of  
artist communities,  
2010-2015:

**\$3 million**

### FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts is one of the only national funders of artist communities, recognizing the value of this artistic tradition and supporting its future.

- The NEA has always supported artist communities through related artistic disciplines, but in recognition of the artist communities' unique characteristics, created a separate funding field under the Art Works category in 2010.

Funding artist communities allows the National Endowment for the Arts to support individual artists, through the artist communities, giving artists the space, time, and resources to do their creative work.

- There are approximately 500 artist communities in the United States, supporting different art forms with varying offerings.

- Artist communities often are one of the few places available for young artists to incubate new ideas.
- Artist communities are diverse in location and setting, offering varied options for artists with 60 percent of the communities in rural areas.
- The multidisciplinary and communal nature of artist communities make them perfect places for collaboration and networking, valuable assets in today's creative economy.

### CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

Interaction between artists and local residents outside the artist communities has become an important activity for many of today's artist communities.

- Artist communities such as the Bemis Center in Omaha, NE and McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC conduct programs with their local residents to address community issues in areas such as education, the environment, and poverty.

- Artist communities are reaching out to artists to expand their diversity such as a residency for deaf artists at the Anderson Center or a residency for African-American and African artists at the Camargo Foundation.

