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.

**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.

**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 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 expand their diversity with residencies for artists with visual, hearing, mobility, and learning disabilities or special residencies for veterans or teachers.

NEA funding of artist communities, 2009-2016:

$4.4 million