

Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

The National Endowment for the Arts is the only funder, public or private, to support the arts in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The agency awards more than \$120 million annually with each grant dollar matched by up to nine dollars from other funding sources.

Economic Impact of the Arts

The arts generate more money to local and state economies than several other industries. According to data released by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts contributed \$804.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016, more than agriculture or transportation, and employed 5 million Americans.

FUNDING THROUGH THE ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS:

Direct grants awarded, 1966-2018:

\$249.5 million

Direct grants awarded, 2018:

\$5.25 million

2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES

Analyzing data and measuring results: **Cathedral Arts Project in Jacksonville, Florida**, to support a collaboration of cross-sector organizations to collect and analyze data about access and quality in arts learning.

Helping advance academic achievement: **Indianapolis State Symphony in Indianapolis, Indiana**, to support the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra that serves K-12 students in the most impoverished neighborhoods in Marion County. Program goals include improving high school graduation rates and transitioning students to a four-year university or vocational certificate program.

Encouraging collective impact: **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Massachusetts**, to support a collective impact initiative that will integrate the arts into the work of the Berkshire Compact for Education, a network of civic, education, and business leaders committed to improving the lives of residents in rural Berkshire County.

Supporting rural teachers: **Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers in Golden Valley, Minnesota**, to support a five-county initiative for arts educators and administrators to increase engagement and academic learning of students in rural Minnesota schools.

Serving rural communities: **St. Louis Classical Guitar Society in St. Louis, Missouri**, to support a classical guitar education program for elementary and middle school students that caters to students in rural areas who are struggling with low academic test scores. Teachers will also be offered professional development.



PARTNERSHIPS AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Arts Education Partnership (AEP) was created by the Arts Endowment and the U.S. Department of Education in 1995 and has been continuously funded since then. Managed by the Education Commission of the States, AEP convenes leaders to better understand effective practices in arts education, publishes research, and acts as a clearinghouse for arts education policies and resources. In addition, AEP created and maintains ArtsEdSearch.org, the nation's first online arts education research clearinghouse.

Since 1987, the Arts Endowment, in coordination with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, has supported the annual **Professional Development Institute** for state arts agency arts education managers. As a result, these professionals are leaders in their field through a peer network that new and experienced managers find invaluable.

Through the **State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education** (SEADAE), the Arts Endowment funds SEADAE through an annual leadership grant. The current grant supports virtual and in-person training to SEADAE members to explore strategies that states and local school districts can use to integrate arts instruction with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a member of the **Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs** composed of representatives from 20 federal agencies that support programs and services that promote positive, healthy outcomes for youth. The agency also is a member of **Grantmakers for Education (GFE)** that works to improve outcomes for all learners by serving as a trusted partner for education philanthropists as they adapt to the changes impacting our world. The Arts Endowment's Director of Arts Education Ayanna Hudson founded and chairs the GFE Arts Education Impact Group.

Managed through the Arts Endowment's Literature program and in partnership with the Poetry Foundation and the state arts agencies, **Poetry Out Loud** engages high school students in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the public recitation of poetry. More than 300,000 students participate each year.

Managed through the Arts Endowment's Theater program and in partnership with Arts Midwest, **Shakespeare in American Communities** supports professional productions of Shakespeare's plays and educational activities for middle and high school students in underserved schools across the nation. In 2019, the Arts Endowment is expanding the program to engage youths within the juvenile justice system with the works of Shakespeare through theater education programs.

BUILDING THE ARTS EDUCATION FIELD

The Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education is creating tools and offering technical assistance to help states extract, analyze and publically report on data about arts education on a regular basis.

RESEARCH

The Arts Endowment's Office of Research & Analysis (ORA) has produced studies on arts education including:

- *The Arts in Early Childhood* (2015), a literature review and gap-analysis of recent research about the arts' relationship to social-emotional benefits in early childhood.
- *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth* (2012) examines the relationship between arts engagement and positive academic and social outcomes in children and young adults of low socioeconomic status.

Research funded by ORA through its funding category Research: Art Works includes many arts education projects. Examples of those projects' final reports are "Understanding the Availability of Arts Education in U.S. High Schools" (working paper, 2017) and "Learning In and Through the Arts: Transfer and Higher Order Thinking" (working paper, 2017).

For more information on arts education at the NEA, go to [arts.gov/artistic-fields/arts-education](https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/arts-education). For more information on the NEA and its programs, go to [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov). The NEA is on Twitter @NEAarts as well as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and iTunes.

