

The National Endowment for the Arts' arts education grant program is focused on pre-K to 12th-grade students, the educators and civic leaders who support them, and the schools and communities that serve them, helping ensure American of all ages have opportunities to learn, create, and grow.

NEA funding through the arts education programs, 1966-2016:

**\$238.6 million**

## ADVANCING LEARNING

The National Endowment for the Arts' direct learning grants increase student knowledge and skills in the arts, helping them reach their full potential.

- In 2016, the NEA awarded \$5.8 million through 194 grants to support lifelong learning, including support to pre-K through 12th grade arts education projects.
- In the NEA's *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies*, young adults who had intensive arts experiences demonstrated higher levels of volunteering and civic engagement than young adults who did not.
- Arts education helps students become better readers and writers. For example, drama increases reading readiness in early grades and improves reading comprehension and writing skills throughout middle and high school.
- Arts education develops creativity, an important attribute and one of the top five skills employers prize for the 21st Century.

The NEA's professional development grants strengthen the practices of arts educators, better preparing them to improve students' creative and learning capacities.

- Between 2006 and 2016, the NEA awarded more than \$4.9 million in professional development grants, including the National Dance Education Organization to support workshops and online training to implement National Core Arts Standards in dance for teachers around the United States, and a grant to Virginia Commonwealth University to support the Currentlab Game Design Institute for art teachers.
- Since 1987, the NEA, in coordination with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, has supported a conference for state arts agency arts education managers.
- The NEA supports the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education that works to develop a nationwide infrastructure of arts education peers in state departments of education.



## ADVANCING LEARNING (continued)

The NEA's collective impact projects work to ensure that millions of students have opportunities to study the arts, thereby transforming schools, school districts, and communities.

- In fiscal year 2016, the NEA awarded 11 collective impact grants totaling approximately \$930,000.
  - Each of the collective impact projects are driven by cross-sector community partnerships that include mayors' offices, state departments of education, city departments of education, PTA organizations, universities, foundations, and corporations.
  - The goals of NEA-supported collective impact projects are far reaching and include building diverse partnerships, collecting statewide data, and developing comprehensive communication plans.
- The NEA's arts education work strives to create equal opportunities for all students to access a quality arts education, regardless of household income, location, or other challenges.
  - In 2013, 130 of 171 arts education grantees or 76 percent reported that their project benefitted an underserved population.
  - *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies* reveals that young people of low socioeconomic status who engaged in the arts earned better grades and had higher rates of college enrollment and attainment than similar youth who have less arts involvement.
  - Arts education helps foster a positive culture in schools with fewer disciplinary referrals and increased instructional effectiveness.



## BUILDING THE FIELD

Through funding, research and leadership, the NEA positions arts education as a driver for transforming individual students, schools, and communities.

- The NEA's arts education office has implemented a strategic plan that guides all of its work and resources towards the vision that every student is engaged and empowered through an excellent arts education.
- The NEA pursues a robust arts education research and data agenda that includes *The Arts in Early Childhood: Social and Emotional Benefits of Arts Participation* and *Arts Education in America: What the Declines Mean for Arts Participation*.
- The NEA is a lead funder of the Arts Education Partnership and a member of Grantmakers for Education.

