

The materials listed here are gathered from around the National Endowment for the Arts website and are intended to compliment the projects featured in the Bright Spots interactive graphic. The materials below provide inspiration and information to help envision, develop, describe, and measure projects exploring the intersection of the arts and science. Funding opportunities are in the [Apply for a Grant](#) section. For more information, contact the NEA Office of Public Affairs at 202-682-5570.

## HEARING FROM PRACTITIONERS AND EXPERTS

“A Kind of Beauty: The Intersection of Art and Science” is the NEA Art issue that highlights some of the people and organizations that are blending the two fields.

[Art \(and Science\) Talk with scientist Lisa Hoffman](#), Hoffman holds a bachelor’s degree in botany and a masters in microbiology and led community engagement programs for the McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, North Carolina.

[Art \(and Science\) Talk with photographer Rachel Sussman](#) combines photography, philosophy, and science in her works and is the author of *The Oldest Living Things*

Other art/science posts are on the [Arts Works blog](#)

## FINDING RESOURCES: PRESENTATIONS

The Interagency Taskforce on the Arts and Human Development Webinars: Beginning in 2011, the NEA convened a Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development to share research exploring the arts’ role in improving health and educational outcomes throughout the lifespan. Taskforce members represented 20 different federal agencies and departments and met quarterly for webinars on varying topics.

[Visual Arts, Learning, and Coping](#) featured:

- Soo- Siang Lim, Program Director and Chair of Coordinating Committee, Science of Learning Centers Program, National Science Foundation presenting on the science of learning and the arts
- Lara Likova, Principal Investigator, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute presenting on harnessing the power of drawing to drive brain plasticity
- Jennifer E. Drake, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College CUNY presenting on children’s use of drawing to regulate their emotions

[Psychological Research on Creativity](#) featured:

- James C. Kaufman, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Psychology, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut presenting on the psychology of creativity

[Music learning and brain development](#) featured:

- Nina Kraus, Hugh Knowles Professor and Principal Investigator, Auditory Neuroscience Lab, Northwestern University presenting on research suggests music education offsets achievement gaps



## FINDING RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS

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“[How Creativity Works in the Brain](#)” is a report summarizing themes and trends emerging from psychological and neurobiological studies of creativity. It explores models for trans-disciplinary research collaborations and it foregrounds artistic creation as a process worthy of more rigorous study. Based on a two-day workshop held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in July 2014, the report also discusses the urgency of such research for broader societal gains.

[The Arts in Early Childhood: Social and Emotional Benefits of Arts Participation](#) is a literature review and gap-analysis of recent research about the arts’ relationship to social-emotional benefits in early childhood.

The NEA funds research through the [Research: Art Works](#) category. Final reports are posted as they are received and cover a wide range of topics. For example, [Musical Creativity “Revealed” in Brain Structure: Interplay between Motor, Default Mode, and Limbic Networks](#).

