

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 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
DANCE PROGRAM:**

Direct grants awarded, 1966-2018:

\$281 million

Direct grants awarded, 2018:

\$3.9 million

2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES

Supporting festivals featuring local and regional artists: **Alabama Dance Council in Birmingham, Alabama**, to support the Alabama Dance Festival featuring a concert of new works from Southern choreographers and showcases of regional dance companies.

Creating access to professional dance companies for young people: **Festival Dance in Moscow, Idaho**, to support Festival Dance Youthreach Project, an educational program bringing touring professional dance companies to grade schools in rural communities in Idaho, Washington, and on Native-American reservations.

Engaging generations through dance education: **New Orleans Ballet Association in New Orleans, Louisiana**, to support NOBA's partnership with New Orleans Recreation Development Commission to provide programs for all ages including dance classes, workshops, performances, residency activities with professional dance companies, health and wellness education, intergenerational engagement, and family activities.

President and Trustees of Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, to support the Bates Dance Festival. The festival will include dance company residencies, performances, and outreach activities.



2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES, CONTINUED

Fostering exchange with international artists: **National Institute of Flamenco in Albuquerque, New Mexico**, to support the Visiting Artist Line residency program in which professional flamenco artists teach, perform, collaborate, and create new dance works

Convening artists on choreographic research, practice, and documentation: **Bebe Miller Company in Columbus, Ohio**, to support an artist-driven conference of presentations on recent practices; resource-sharing; peer-to-peer mentoring; investigations into the choreographic process; and digital methodologies for archives, creative process, presentation, and performance.

Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah, to support the Ballet West National Choreographic Festival. The festival will feature performances by Ballet West, as well as several invited ballet companies from across the United States.

BUILDING THE FIELD

The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest funder of nonprofit dance in the United States and is directly responsible for the spread of dance from major cities on the coasts to the rest of the country and the infrastructure that makes up the American nonprofit dance field.

The Arts Endowment's first choreographer fellowships awarded in 1966 went to Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, José Limón, Alwin Nikolais, Anna Sokolow, and Paul Taylor, all of whom went on to become great American modern dance artists and influence generations of dance makers, continuing the legacy of the art form.

The National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, commissioned *Images of American Dance* in 1992, a study of dance documentation and archival resources in six American cities. The study led to the creation of the Dance Heritage Coalition, now an integral department of Dance/USA, committed to advancing the ability of diverse dance communities to preserve and share their legacies, building awareness of dance archiving practices, history, and scholarship.

RESEARCH

Through the Arts Endowment's Office of Research & Analysis, the agency has awarded Research Labs and Research: Art Works grants to fund dance-based studies such as:

- MVLE, Inc. in Springfield, Virginia received a grant to support a case-study evaluation of dance performances featuring adults with varying levels of intellectual and developmental disability alongside professional dancers (2018). The research explores experiential art-making as well as outcomes for the performers.
- A final report, *Evidence: A Report on the Impact of Dance in the K-12 Setting*, authored through the National Dance Organization, is posted on the Arts Endowment's website (published 2013). The report is a literature review with evaluations and summaries of the cited studies.

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

