

The National Endowment for the Arts recognizes design's ever-present impact on society by funding activities that encourage, preserve, and disseminate the best in American and global design.

Funding through the design and creative placemaking programs, 1966-2015:

\$126.7 million

ADVANCING LEARNING

The National Endowment for the Arts has been a leader in bringing design practices and perspectives to solve government challenges.

- The Federal Design Improvement Program was a multifaceted effort initiated by NEA Chairman Nancy Hanks in 1972 that became the Design Excellence Program now housed at the General Services Administration.
- The NEA has invested more than \$10 million in the Mayors' Institute on City Design and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.
 - Since its inception in 1986, the NEA's Mayors' Institute on City Design has taught more than 1,000 mayor "graduates" to be the chief designer of their city, leading to innumerable enhancements to American cities.
 - Since 1991, the NEA's Citizens' Institute on Rural Design has conducted more than 64 workshops in all regions of the country, providing communities with populations of 50,000 or less access to design and planning resources that they need to wisely direct their physical growth.

The National Endowment for the Arts provides opportunities for designers at all levels to develop their professional skills.

- NEA has funded and/or helped manage design competitions including Rebuild by Design following Hurricane Sandy and the WWII National Memorial Design Competition.

- NEA funding supports design charettes including the redesign of downtown Oklahoma City after the 1995 bombing and the old Pension Building into the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.
- NEA regularly conducts webinars around various design topics and funds professional convenings.

The National Endowment for the Arts creates free resources for designers, creative placemaking practitioners, and the general public to improve their practice or learn about design.

- The NEA has maintained significant publishing partnerships, producing important resources such as *Redressing the Mall: Sprawl and Public Space* by Princeton Architectural Press in 2001.
- Recent NEA design publications include *Valuing the Art of Industrial Design* and the white paper *Beyond the Building: Performing Arts and Transforming Place*.
- The NEA's web-based resources include Exploring Our Town—which contains over 70 creative placemaking case studies and lessons learned.

National Endowment for the Arts funding supports public programs, connecting designers and their ideas with diverse audiences.

- Workshops, tours, and lectures are among the types of programs supported, including funding for Open House New York, a series of walking tours with over 300 sites visited and almost 75,000 people served in 2014.



FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts makes a significant investment in new design.

- The NEA funds many design disciplines including, but not limited to, architecture and landscape architecture; graphic, fashion, industrial, and interior design; and universal and social impact design.
- Between 2006 and 2015, the NEA awarded almost \$12 million to support new work in design.
- The NEA awarded a 1981 grant to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for their design competition that resulted in the selection of Maya Lin's iconic design. Located on the National Mall, the memorial is visited by millions of people.
- NEA has helped to produce several design award programs, including the GSA Design Awards, Postal Service Facilities Design Awards, and the Presidential Design Awards.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports the integration of design, design thinking, and design principles into the operations of nonprofits and businesses.

- Support for recent design thinking projects includes a grant to the Strategic Education Research Partnership Institute for the integration of design thinking into the practice of scientific discovery.
- The NEA supports social impact design—the practice of designing spaces, products and processes to solve societal problems—through grantmaking, webinar series, and convenings that bring together diverse field practitioners.

CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

The National Endowment for the Arts supports projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

- The NEA funds projects that focus on the design of public space, including Chattanooga's Main Terrain Art Park which transformed an empty lot into a public space that encourages physical activity and manages storm water.
- Between 2011 and 2015, the NEA awarded \$25.96 million through 325 grants in communities in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico through the Our Town program, helping assure that arts activity is considered among other community needs.
- The NEA works closely with other federal agencies and departments, including the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture to align community development goals and leverage federal resources.
- To encourage field development, the NEA added a new project area to Our Town, Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports design preservation.

- Design preservation includes digitizing architectural drawings and photographs and preserving historic structures and objects.
- The NEA's Focus on Adaptive Reuse program funded preservation of rail stations including Union Station in St. Louis, MO.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports design exhibitions.

- Curators of design exhibitions come from architecture and design organizations as well as museums, parks, and local arts agencies.
- Between 2006 and 2015, the NEA awarded more than \$2.5 million to support design exhibitions.

