

The National Endowment for the Arts is supporting the recovery of the arts and cultural communities devastated by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in the regions designated a major disaster area by FEMA in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As the federal agency has done in other instances of natural disasters, the NEA is coordinating support through its state arts agency partners to direct funds to those arts and cultural entities in need of support.

Nonprofit arts organizations and artists seeking disaster assistance from their state arts agency should contact the following:

| STATE | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Texas Commission on the Arts | Jim Bob McMillan | jbm@arts.texas.gov | 512-936-6572 |
| Florida Division of Cultural Affairs | Dr. Gaylen Phillips | gaylen.phillips@dos.myflorida.com | 850-245-6482 |
| United States Virgin Islands Council on the Arts | Tasida Kelch | tasidakelch@yahoo.com | n/a |
| Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña | Isabel Rosa Irizarry | irosa.jd@gmail.com | 787-409-2449 |

What can the NEA's disaster funding support be used for?

NEA funds will be allocated to areas and constituents that may not have ready access to other sources of monetary assistance mobilized by local foundations, corporations, or insurance, etc. The funds may be designated for artists and nonprofit arts organizations and used to support expenses already allowed for NEA grantmaking activity such as:

- Projects and activities judged to have artistic excellence and artistic merit produced in new spaces, due to damage of existing space.
- Rental of venues or equipment.
- Purchase of replacement supplies and equipment utilized for administrative purposes or artistic purposes.
- Salaries, wages, fringe benefits for organizational staff, in the event of business disruption.

- Repair and conservation of artistic and cultural materials including costumes, performance sets, instruments, etc.
- Design fees for construction or renovation of spaces.
- Marketing/promotion expenses, publications, distribution.
- Access accommodations.

In many places the most important need right now is rebuilding infrastructure, so the NEA is also allowing funds to be used toward the purchase of building and construction supplies, although, not for construction itself. Funds can also be used for fuel, to help museums with climate control for objects to combat mold infestation, or to help organizations get back to programmatic functionality with basic electricity for lights, computers, etc.



What NEA funding has been allocated to the state arts agencies for disaster support?

The state arts agencies of Texas, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico requested emergency funding from the NEA for hurricane relief. Each state's request was developed in response to damage assessments and consultation with its constituents.

| STATE ARTS AGENCY | EMERGENCY FUNDING APPROVED REQUEST |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Texas Commission on the Arts | \$192,520 |
| Florida Division of Cultural Affairs | \$158,760 |
| United States Virgin Islands Council on the Arts | \$139,960 |
| Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña | \$375,000 |

Does the NEA usually support disaster efforts?

Our country's cultural organizations frequently turn to the National Endowment for the Arts for support when disasters strike the geographical areas in which they operate. These disasters have taken the form of floods, tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, fires, and terrorist attacks. Based on our experience with these situations, at the federal level, we leave the initial disaster recovery response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

In the past, the NEA has responded to national emergencies, including disaster relief in the wake of September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the devastating tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri, and Tupelo, Mississippi.

The NEA is on the National Coalition of Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER) steering committee and participates in weekly calls with FEMA's Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function task force. The purpose of the task force is to connect the needs of the community to the responders who are deployed to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We have found the most appropriate actions for the NEA to take are to:

- Participate as an active member of several ongoing and ad hoc disaster recovery-related working groups of federal agencies, national service organizations, and philanthropic foundations;
- Vet the cultural sector's concerns with relevant federal and national partners (FEMA, SBA, Heritage Preservation, etc.);
- Strengthen communication at the local, state, and national levels;
- Provide links to philanthropic and disaster recovery resources on the NEA's website, if appropriate;
- Acknowledge the hardship faced by local cultural organizations through a message from the NEA Chairman to the state and local arts agencies in the impacted area; and to
- Monitor developments on an ongoing basis via the state and local arts agencies.

