National Endowment for the Arts

Notice of Funding Opportunity: FY26 Research Grants in the Arts

Program Guidelines

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Access for individuals with disabilities:

Contact the Office of Accessibility at 202-682-5532 / accessibility@arts.gov or the Office of Civil Rights at civilrights@arts.gov to request an accommodation or an alternate format of the guidelines at least 2 weeks prior to the application deadline.

Research Grants in the Arts

Basic Information

Federal Agency Name	National Endowment for the Arts
Funding Opportunity Title	Research Grants in the Arts
Announcement Type	Modification of previous announcement
Funding Opportunity Number(s)	2025NEA01ORAGRANTS
Assistance Listing Number(s)	No. 45.024
Agency contact information	NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov

Details in the chart below are estimates. Actual figures may vary.

Funding Details	Amount *(Contingent upon availability of funds)*
Total amount of funding expected to award	$1,025,000
Anticipated number of applications	80
Anticipated number of awards	10-20 awards
Expected dollar value of awards (range)	$20,000-$100,000

Executive Summary

Research Grants in the Arts (RGA) support research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecosystem or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life.

Eligible applicants include: Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; Units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes. Funding in this category is not available for individuals, fiscally sponsored projects, commercial/for-profit enterprises, State Arts Agencies (SAA), or Regional Arts Organizations (RAO), among others. See [Eligibility](#) for full eligibility requirements.

COMPONENTS OF THIS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO):

- *RESEARCH GRANTS IN THE ARTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES (this document)*: Essential information about the program, including a program description, eligibility, review criteria, award amount and cost sharing, and post-award requirements and administration, among others.
- *APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS DOCUMENT*: Navigate to the "Application Instructions" section on the [Research Awards webpage](#) for complete information on application requirements and how to apply.

KEY DATES:

Applying for and managing a federal award is a significant undertaking and the process is competitive. We estimate that after registrations, which can take several weeks to finalize, the process to draft and submit an application will take approximately 26 hours.

STAGE	DATE
Program Guidelines and Application Instructions Published	February 2025
Part 1: Application Package Available on Grants.gov	February 2025
Part 1: Grants.gov *Submission Deadline*	**March 24, 2025** **11:59 pm Eastern Time**
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal *Opens to Applicants*	**March 27, 2025** **9:00 am Eastern Time**
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal *Submission Deadline*	**April 3, 2025** **11:59 pm Eastern Time**
Notification of recommended funding or rejection	December 2025
Earliest project start date	January 1, 2026

Research Grants in the Arts Program Description

The Research Grants in the Arts (RGA) program is a funding opportunity under the NEA's Research Awards portfolio. The program supports research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecosystem or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life.

The NEA welcomes research proposals that align with at least one of the priority areas and possible questions within the agency's FY 2022-2026 research agenda. The priority areas, in brief, are listed below:

- **What are measurable impacts of the arts on the following outcome areas**: health and wellness for individuals; cognition and learning; and U.S. economic growth and/or civic or business innovation? Under what conditions do such impacts occur, through what mechanisms, and for which populations and/or sectors?

- **In what ways do the arts contribute to the healing and revitalization of communities?** What factors mediate these contributions, and for the benefit of which populations? What are common elements of such programs or practices, and what are appropriate measures of success?

- **What is the state of access to arts programs, services, and related opportunities for underserved groups** (i.e., those whose access to the arts has been limited by geography, ethnicity, economic conditions, and/or disability)?

- **What progress has been made in achieving positive, durable outcomes for arts administration, employment, learning, and participation?**

- **How is the U.S. arts ecosystem (e.g., arts organizations and venues, artists and arts workers, and participants and learners) adapting and responding** to social, economic, and technological changes and challenges to the sector, including trends accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic? What are promising practices and/or replicable strategies for responding to such forces, for different segments of the arts ecosystem?

We encourage projects that originate from or are in collaboration with the following constituencies:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
- Tribal Colleges and Universities,
- American Indian and Alaska Native tribes,
- Hispanic Serving Institutions,
- Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and
- Organizations that support the independence of people with disabilities.

The selection process for Research Grants in the Arts is rigorous and highly competitive. It is expected that the recipient will complete the research project. **We will not transfer the award to another organization.**

In recent years, the application success rate has ranged from 24% to 31%. Prior to applying, applicants should consider whether their project is a good fit for the program.

The NEA requires applicants to comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) in the United States.

Product Requirement

Through these awards, we intend to achieve the following objective in the NEA FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan: *Produce research, statistics, and general information about the arts for the benefit of the arts sector and beyond*. To achieve this goal, Research Grants in the Arts recipients will be required to submit a [20-50-page research paper](#) at the end of the grant period. See [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page for examples of previous recipients' final research products.

Projects and Research Methods

We welcome applications from a wide range of research fields (e.g., economics; psychology; education; sociology; medicine, health, and therapy; communications; business administration; urban and regional planning). We expect the funded projects will be varied in terms of geographical distribution, the artistic and research fields or disciplines involved, and the research topics proposed. We also expect the projects to reflect an array of study designs.

In recent years, the NEA has supported studies that hypothesize a cause-effect relationship between the arts and key outcomes of interest (e.g., in health, education, or the economy). For research studies or program evaluations **seeking to explore causal claims about the arts**, experimental approaches (e.g., randomized controlled trials) are generally preferred. In some cases, different study designs will be preferable. These designs may include, but are not limited to meta-analyses, quasi-experimental studies, complex surveys, case studies, and studies using mixed methods. **In particular, we encourage community-based participatory research approaches, where warranted** by the research objective.

The NEA research agenda states that, through these awards, the agency will "incentivize the creation of practitioner tools grounded in research." In keeping with this aim, we especially welcome translational research that moves scientific evidence toward the **development, testing, and standardization of new arts-related programs, practices, models, or tools** that can be used easily by other practitioners and researchers.

Data Sources and Analysis

Projects supported under this program *must* include data analysis activities that occur during the period of performance, and can include either primary and/or secondary/archival data sources. **We do not fund projects that focus *exclusively* on data acquisition.**

Primary data sources refer to research data or information that **did not** exist prior to the project **and** that 1) will be actively collected by the applicant during the period of performance and 2) the costs of which are included in the project budget.

Secondary/archival data sources refer to research data or information that was or will be actively collected outside of the period of performance and the costs related to the primary data collection are not included in the project budget. Examples of this might include an existing dataset or archival information that applicants plan to analyze under an NEA award.

Data analysis may include quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed-method approaches. Data sources may include, but are not limited to, surveys, censuses, biological or medical experiments, observations, interviews, focus groups, social media activity, administrative data, and transactional/financial data. Other examples of data sources include archived materials such as written documents, audio/video recordings, or photographs and images.

We welcome the use of data in both the public and private domain, including commercial and/or administrative data sources. Visit the NEA website for a list of publicly available datasets that include arts-related variables. Some of these datasets are also available through the NEA's public data repository: the National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture (NADAC).

See Responsible Conduct of Research for requirements related to primary data collected from human subjects.

We do not fund

- Projects that do not include a focus on a priority topic outlined in the NEA's research agenda.
- Projects that focus exclusively on data acquisition.
- Projects that do not include data analysis conducted during the period of performance.
- Projects that focus exclusively on conducting a literature review.
- Project activities that include the *creation and/or installation* of public art as part of the proposed project activities and budget. *Public art* refers to the commissioning and installation of artwork in public spaces, such as temporary or permanent outdoor furnishings (e.g., benches or market structures), or other artwork such as a sculpture or mural that is temporarily or permanently installed in public spaces. These types of projects are funded through our other grant programs, including Grants for Arts Projects, Challenge America, and Our Town.

- Seasonal or general operating support.
- Costs of physical construction or renovation, or the purchase costs of facilities or land.

See the [General Terms and Conditions for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Organizations](#) for more information on unallowable costs and activities.

Recommended Partnerships

Although not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to include project teams that include experts from both arts practice *and* research/evaluation. If applicants do not already have research staff in their organizations, they are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other organizations, entities, or individuals who will be able to support the technical requirements of the research project. Applicants that do not have an arts practitioner serving on the project are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other organizations, entities, or individuals to provide any artistic or arts field perspectives as needed. If partners are included, an application must demonstrate the active involvement of the applicant organization in the proposed project activities.

Period of Performance

NEA support of a project may start on or after January 1, 2026. Awards generally may have a period of performance of up to three years.

Projects that extend beyond one year may be required to submit an annual progress report and must include proof of updated ethics training on human subjects research protections and Institutional Review Board (IRB) materials as necessary. See [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) for requirements related to data collected from human subjects.

A recipient may not receive more than one NEA grant for the same activities or costs during the same period of performance.

Eligibility

For projects that involve multiple organizations, *one organization that meets the eligibility requirements below* must act as the lead applicant, submit the application, and assume full responsibility for understanding and complying with all the legal, financial, and administrative requirements of the award. Partnering organizations are not required to meet the eligibility requirements below.

ELIGIBLE
The lead applicant organization must be a:

- Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization;

- Unit of state or local government, or

- Federally recognized tribal community or tribe

Colleges and universities that fall under one of these three categories may serve as the lead applicant organization.

To be eligible as the lead applicant, the organization **must**:

- Meet the NEA's Legal Requirements, including nonprofit, tax-exempt status at the time of application.

- Have completed a five-year history of operations prior to the application deadline.

- Have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM), and have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), at the time of application. Applicants must maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete and throughout the life of an award.

NOT ELIGIBLE

The following are **not** eligible to apply as the lead applicant organization:

- Individuals;

- Commercial and for-profit enterprises;

- Applications through a fiscal sponsor/agent. All organizations must apply directly on their own behalf.

- An organization whose primary purpose is to channel resources (financial, human, or other) to an affiliated organization may not apply if the affiliated organization also submits its own application. This prohibition applies even if each organization has its own 501(c)(3) status. For example, the "Friends of ABC Museum" may not apply if the ABC Museum applies.

- The designated 50 state and six jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and their regional arts organizations (RAOs). SAAs and RAOs may serve as partners in projects. However, they may not receive NEA funds through this award program or contribute subawarded federal funds to the cost share/match.

Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Applications will not be transferred between NEA opportunities. Applications to Research Grants in the Arts will not be transferred to Research Labs, Grants for Arts Projects, or Our Town, or vice versa.

Fiscal Sponsorship

Fiscally sponsored organizations and projects are not eligible for NEA funding. An organization or individual **may not** use a fiscal sponsor/agent for the purpose of submitting an application. The NEA does not fund unincorporated or for-profit entities or individuals that engage non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes to apply for grants on their behalf.

If your organization does not have its own non-profit status, you may still participate in a project submitted by another eligible organization, but you may not submit your own application.

What is a fiscal sponsor/agent?
A fiscal sponsor/agent is an entity that oversees the fiscal activities of another organization, company, or group of independent artists or projects. These activities may include bookkeeping, filing of W2s or 1099s, daily banking, or grant preparation.

An application must demonstrate the active involvement of the applicant organization in the proposed project activities. The NEA may review your website and other materials in addition to your application to determine the eligibility of the application.

Application Limits

- An organization may submit more than one application to the FY26 Research Grants in the Arts funding opportunity. In each case, the request must be for a **distinctly different project**. However, an organization will not receive more than one FY26 Research Grants in the Arts award.
- Applicants to the Research Grants in the Arts funding opportunity may apply to other FY26 NEA funding opportunities (applications submitted in CY2025). Each application must be for a **distinctly different project.**

Cost Sharing/Matching

Applications that do not demonstrate the minimum required cost share/match will be marked ineligible. See Award Amounts and Cost Share Matching below for more information related to cost share/matching requirements.

Award Amounts & Cost Sharing

All applications submitted and awards made in response to these guidelines are subject to the NEA's grant regulations and [terms and conditions](#).

Award Amounts

We anticipate issuing between 10 to 20 awards, based on the availability of funding.

Awards will range from $20,000 to $100,000.
- For projects that will involve minimal or no primary data collection as part of the project budget, we anticipate making awards in the $20,000-$50,000 range. Projects that include primary data collection as a robust component of the project are eligible for awards between $20,000 and $100,000.
- For requests between $50,000 and $100,000, priority will be given to projects that present theory-driven and evidence-based research questions and methodologies.

We will award very few awards at or above the $50,000 level; we anticipate these projects to be capable of significant scale and impact.

In developing an application, we urge applicants to consider the funding levels of recent awards and to request a realistic award amount. Applicants should review the [lists of grants](#) on our website to see recent award funding levels and project types.

We reserve the right to limit our support of a project to a particular phase(s) or cost(s).

Cost Share and Matching Funds

Awards cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. All awards require a nonfederal cost share/match of at least 1 to 1. These cost share/matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions and can include federally-negotiated indirect costs. You may include in your Project Budget cost share/matching funds that are proposed but not yet committed at the time of the application deadline.

Applicants whose projects are recommended for less than the requested funding amount will have the opportunity to revise the project budget and/or project scope to reflect any necessary changes to the project, based on the recommended funding amount.

All costs included in your Project Budget must be incurred during your period of performance. Costs associated with other federal funds, whether direct or indirect (e.g., flow down through a state arts agency), cannot be included in your Project Budget. No pre-award costs are allowable in the Project Budget. **Costs incurred before the earliest project start date of January 1, 2026, cannot be included in your budget or cost share/match.**

Application Contents & Format

Application Instructions

A detailed instructions document outlining how to complete and submit both parts of the application, including all application questions, can be found on the Research Awards page, under the *Application Instructions and Questions* section.

Before applying, applicants must finalize required registrations detailed on the next page. **All three required registrations must be active to submit Part 1 of the application through Grants.gov.**

Application Part 1, Grants.gov

Part 1 of the application is submitted through Grants.gov. All applicants must submit the "Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form." This is a brief form that will collect very basic information about your organization.

A direct link to the Grants.gov Opportunity Package where you will complete this form is included on the Research Awards page, under "Submit Your Application" in the How to Apply section. You must successfully submit Part 1 to move on to Part 2.

Application Part 2, NEA Applicant Portal

Part 2 of the application is submitted via the NEA's Applicant Portal. This is a separate website from Grants.gov.

All applicants must complete the "Grant Application Form (GAF)" and upload items through the portal. Information is submitted via a web form, where you will enter the majority of your application material, including information about your organization's history and budget, project details including a project description, timeline, and budget information, and special attachments.

Applications recommended for funding

Applicants whose projects are recommended for funding will be asked to submit additional information, which may include: a project update, a revised project budget, an accessibility form, and updates on human ethics training certificates and Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews. See Post-Award Requirements and Administration for more information.

Tips:

View the Guidelines Webinar: We will conduct a live webinar featuring an overview presentation and a Q&A session. A link to registration information and an archived recording will be available on the Applicant Resources page.

View the Grant Application Form (GAF) Tutorial: This tutorial provides an overview of the Grant Application Form (GAF) to assist you during Part 2 of the application process: Online Tutorial: Using the Grant Application Form.

Application updates after submission:

Send new information that significantly affects your application (such as changes in project personnel, confirmed funding commitments, or IRB status) as soon as possible to NEA Research Awards staff. You must include your organization's name and NEA application number with any updates.

If you have questions about your application, contact the NEA Research Awards staff at NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Submission Requirements & Deadlines

Pre-Application Required Registrations

Before applying, all applicants must register with Login.gov, the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov, and Grants.gov. Applicants must provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in their application; and continue to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal agency. **All three required registrations must be active to submit Part 1 of the application through Grants.gov.**

Returning applicants must renew or verify that their registrations are up to date prior to the application deadline. If your SAM registration is expired, you must renew it before submitting an application.

Registering and maintaining accounts with Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov is always FREE.

A Registration Guidance document is available on the [Research Awards](#) page, which provides detailed information about the registration process, including links to each registration site and support resources.

Registration can take several weeks. Give yourself plenty of time to get registered. We suggest allocating four weeks to complete registration.

Submission Methods

Application materials must be submitted electronically. See [Application Instructions](#) above.

Contact Information

For assistance with application requirements, contact NEA staff: NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov Help
The NEA does not have access to your Login.gov, SAM, or Grants.gov accounts. If you have any questions about or need assistance with these sites, including questions regarding electronic accessibility, you must contact them directly:

- **Login.gov Help**: Call 1-844-875-6446, consult the information posted in their [Help Center](#), or use their [online form](#) to submit a question.

- **SAM Federal Service Desk**: Call 1-866-606-8220 or see the information posted on the SAM website at [SAM Help](#).

- **Grants.gov Contact Center**: Call 1-800-518-4726, email support@grants.gov, or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov website at [Support](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Submission Dates and Times

STAGE	DATE
Program Guidelines and Application Instructions Published	February 2025
Part 1: Application Package Available on Grants.gov	February 2025
Part 1: Grants.gov *Submission Deadline*	**March 24, 2025** **11:59 pm Eastern Time**
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal *Opens to Applicants*	**March 27, 2025** **9:00 am Eastern Time**
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal *Submission Deadline*	**April 3, 2025** **11:59 pm Eastern Time**
Notification of recommended funding or rejection	December 2025
Earliest project start date	January 1, 2026

Please do not seek information on the status of your application before the announcement date listed above.

Exceptions to the Submission Deadlines

Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Exceptions to the Research Grants in the Arts submission deadlines will be considered only for registration or renewal issues or technical malfunctions that are the result of failures on the part of Login.gov, SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or NEA systems, as determined by the NEA. To be considered for this exception, you must provide documentation of a Login.gov, SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or NEA systems failure that prevented your submission by the deadline.

In the event of an emergency (e.g., a hurricane or a Login.gov, SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or NEA systems technological failure), the NEA Chair may adjust application deadlines for affected applicants. If a deadline is extended for any reason, an announcement will be posted on our website.

Exceptions to the deadlines **will not** be considered for reasons such as:

- User error, including but not limited to, failing to register or submit an application on time, or failure to verify that your application was successfully submitted to Grants.gov and/or the Applicant Portal.
- Problems with the applicant's computer systems or Internet access.

Please note:

- Permission for a late Part 1 application submission cannot be granted in advance. If you feel you have a case for an exception, contact staff within one week **after** the Part 1 submission deadline with documentation of the issues you ran into.

- Applications submitted late or outside the Grants.gov system or NEA system (e.g., an emailed SF-424) will not be processed, reviewed, or considered for funding.

Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs Executive Order 12372.

Application Review

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the basis of **artistic excellence** and **artistic merit**. For the Research Awards programs, artistic excellence and artistic merit can be considered as research excellence and research merit, respectively, as they relate to the bullets below.

The following are considered during the review of applications:

Artistic Excellence

- **Is the research plan clear and effective?** This includes the conceptual framework, research design, description of any arts program or intervention being studied, sampling techniques and/or data sources, and the proposed analytical methods, in addition to the relationship of these elements to the proposed research questions. This also includes the appropriateness of the research questions to the Research Grants in the Arts program.

- **Is there a sufficient evidence base for the research plan?** This includes evidence that the project is informed by a literature review and/or citations of previous work or research (either published or unpublished) that support the conceptual framework and proposed research plan (including the study design and analytical methods).

- **Are the organization, its partners, and project personnel qualified to execute the research plan?** This includes credentials and past accomplishments in conducting research of the type proposed. As appropriate, discussion of planned or actual ethics training on human subjects research protections for relevant personnel, and the project's Institutional Review Board (IRB) plans and/or status. This also includes the appropriateness of the research and/or artistic disciplines represented on the project team.

- **Does the project include effective strategies, including quality control measures, to document progress and success during the period of performance?** This includes any milestones that the organization plans to achieve during the project as well as beyond the life of the grant. This also includes any processes that ensure fidelity of the data collection/analysis and program/therapy implementation through routine monitoring and oversight.

- **Have the organization and partners devoted adequate resources to execute the entire project?** This includes appropriateness of the budget, other resources, and the degree of involvement by project personnel.

Artistic Merit

- **Does the project have high potential to bridge arts-related research with policy and/or practice** in at least one of the following ways?

  o Likely to yield results that are generalizable, even for discrete populations or practitioner groups.

- Likely to spur innovation in arts-related research, policy, or practice—e.g., through the development, testing, and standardization of models, tools, or evidence-based guides.

- Likely to allow more than one field, sector, or population subgroup to benefit from arts-related research.

- Where appropriate, likely to yield results benefiting underserved groups/communities, including those for whom there are limited opportunities to experience the arts and arts-related benefits.

- **Does the project include effective strategies to promote and disseminate the research results, products, and data?** This includes distribution strategies to make the research findings, products, and data accessible to the public and to other researchers and practitioners, beyond the materials that would be posted to the NEA's website. This also may include a record of past accomplishments in publishing or distributing research results, and the data management plan, as appropriate.

Review & Selection Process

Applications are checked for completeness and eligibility by NEA staff. Eligible applications are reviewed according to the review criteria above in closed session by interdisciplinary research and evaluation advisory panelists. Each panel comprises a range of arts-research experts and other individuals, including at least one knowledgeable layperson. Panels are convened remotely. Panel membership changes regularly. The panel recommends the projects to be supported, and the staff reconciles panel recommendations with the funds that are available. These recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts, where they are voted on in an open, public session.

The National Council on the Arts makes recommendations to the NEA Chair.

The NEA Chair reviews the recommendations for grants in all funding categories and makes the final decision on all grant awards. Applicants are then notified of funding decisions. It is anticipated that the NEA will notify applicants of award or rejection in December 2025. After notification, applicants with questions may contact NEA staff at NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Risk Review

All recommended applications undergo a review to evaluate risk posed by the applicant organization prior to making a federal award. The review may include past performance on federal awards, meeting reporting deadlines, compliance with terms and conditions, audit findings, etc.

Other Requirements and Priorities

Responsible Conduct of Research

The NEA is committed to the responsible conduct of research for projects supported under the Research Awards programs. As such, the NEA requires applicants under this program to comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the conduct of research in the United States. We require applicants to obtain permissions (including but not limited to the acquisition of existing data) from all appropriate entities or individuals (including but not limited to minors or other sensitive populations) for conducting the proposed project and to include evidence of such permissions in the application material. These may include, but are not limited to, approval from Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), and/or data licensing for the acquisition of existing data, as may be required.

Data collection activities conducted under an award are the sole responsibility of the recipient organization, and the NEA's support of the project does not constitute approval of those data collection procedures. Therefore, data collected from respondents/participants will be conducted by the recipient or at the recipient's direction. Any researchers collecting data for a project supported with NEA funds—or by the cost share/matching funds for the project—**may not represent to those subjects that such data are being collected on the NEA's behalf**. Recipients may, however, use the NEA logo to aid in data collection if data collection is included in the project budget. In such cases, use of the logo must include the grant number, and the recipient should not state or imply that such data are being collected at the direction of or on behalf of the NEA.

Applicants who propose *primary data collection* as part of their projects are required to describe plans and/or status of ethics training on human subjects research protections, including such aspects as working with minors and other sensitive populations, as well as the role of IRBs. Evidence of such plans and/or status can take the form of an active, unexpired certificate of completion of a training module. The NEA does not specify or endorse any specific educational programs. Certificates of completion of the training are not required at the time of application. If you are recommended for an award, you will be expected to submit active, unexpired certificates of completion of a training module for each key personnel involved with primary data collection or analysis of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from human subjects. The NEA will not reimburse costs for ethics training under this program. Award recipients are required to submit updated ethics training documentation as relevant. The NEA may withhold funds until ethics training is demonstrated.

In addition, applicants who include *primary data collection* as a proposed project activity are required to provide an explanation for whether IRB approval is needed to execute the project. If IRB approval is required, then applicants also must indicate the measures they have taken or plan on taking to gain IRB approval. If multiple organizations are directly involved in human subjects research for a proposed project, then the applicant must provide documentation from each of those organizations as well. Recipients are required to submit IRB approval

documentation to the NEA prior to engaging in any activity determined to require IRB approval, as well as submit updated IRB documentation as relevant.

IMPORTANT: For this program, the NEA may withhold award funds until IRB approval is submitted to us.

Applicant organizations can use their own IRB if they have one. Applicant organizations who do not already have an IRB should work with a partner and/or consult with another institution or organization that does have an IRB to determine whether IRB approval is necessary for the project. Costs of submitting research proposals to IRBs are allowable only if this activity takes place during the award period of performance; however, the application proposal must include evidence that the applicant has consulted with their preferred IRB or IRBs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides additional guidance and resources for learning about the responsible conduct of research, including decision charts for assessing whether a project needs an IRB/research ethics review, a set of free training modules (which can be used to provide evidence of ethics training for an NEA research application), and a database of registered IRBs; the National Science Foundation also has resources related to IRB and human subjects research protections.

Data Management and Sharing

We intend for the Research Grants in the Arts program to generate new findings that will inform the public—including, as relevant, researchers and/or practitioners in the arts or other domains—about the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. We require applicants to submit a *data management plan*, documenting how any raw data and meta-data resulting from the proposed project will be used and maintained during and beyond the life of the award. Applicants should discuss confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other relevant rights or requirements (to include but not be limited to securing and handling / deidentification of Protected Health Information (PHI) and PII). This may include referencing the HIPAA Privacy Rule, IRB status, and permissions and/or protections of minors and other sensitive populations, as appropriate.

Costs of storing and/or sharing data are only allowable if these data management activities take place during the period of performance.

Award Notices

The Notification date for your category on the Application Calendar tells you when we expect to announce grant decisions.

Notifications are sent via email. Applicants who are recommended for funding will receive a preliminary congratulatory message with a request for project and budget updates. Applicants not recommended for funding will receive a rejection notice via email.

The official award notification (i.e., a notice of action authorized by the NEA Office of Grants Management) is the only legal and valid confirmation of award. Receipt of your official award notification can take several months depending on a number of factors, such as reviewing changes to the project budget, the number of awards to be processed, whether the agency has its appropriation from Congress, etc. **All NEA awards are contingent on active SAM registration, the NEA will not be able to issue an award if you have an expired SAM registration on September 1 of the fiscal year listed on this funding opportunity.**

Final Reporting on Previous Awards

Before the NEA issues any award, organizations must have submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all previous NEA award(s).

Post-Award Requirements & Administration

General Terms & Conditions

Federal government-wide and agency-specific requirements that relate to NEA awards are highlighted in our General Terms & Conditions (GTCs). The GTCs incorporate the adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 by reference. The document also explicitly identifies where the NEA has selected options offered in the regulation, such as budget waivers and requirements for use of program income. It also includes requirements for cost share funds, reporting requirements, amendment processes, and termination actions. **Recipients must review, understand, and comply with these requirements.** Failure to comply with the GTCs for an award may result in termination of an award, and/or returning funds to the NEA, among other consequences.

Implementation of Title 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

The guidance under 2 CFR Part 200 from the federal government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes clarity and consistency of the pre- and post-award requirements applicable to federal award recipients. The NEA has adopted the OMB Guidance in 2 CFR part 200 under §3255.1 Adoption of 2 CFR Part 200. The NEA's adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance, including any updates to it.

Crediting Requirement

Recipients must clearly acknowledge NEA support of the grant project in their programs and related promotional material, including publications and websites. Additional acknowledgment requirements may be provided later. The NEA does not fund general operating support, so you must ensure that the NEA is only credited for supporting the grant project and not your entire organization or its operations.

In *publications and presentations* of the data and the findings, acknowledgment of the NEA must be prominently displayed, including the Research Grants in the Arts award number; appropriate disclaimers are also required, depending on the nature of the product.

Sample crediting language: This project was supported in part or in whole by an award from the Research Grants in the Arts program at the National Endowment for the Arts: Grant# xxxxxxx-38-xx.

Sample disclaimer language: The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author(s) and do not represent the views of the National Endowment for the Arts. The National Endowment for the Arts does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information included in this paper and is not responsible for any consequence of its use.

In all other places (including but not limited to presentations concerning the project and material created for social media), the recipient must clearly acknowledge support from the

NEA, regardless of the medium of the material, except as noted in the section titled "Responsible Conduct of Research."

Changes in Projects

Pre-Award: Applicants must notify the NEA of any significant changes in their project that occur after submitting an application. If the project, the applicant's eligibility, or the organization's capacity to carry out the project changes significantly before an award is made, the NEA may revise or withdraw the funding recommendation.

Post-Award: Recipients are expected to carry out a project consistent with the proposal that was approved for funding by the NEA. If changes to the project are required, the recipient must request approval from the Office of Grants Management, which is **the only office authorized to amend or change an NEA award. Written and/or verbal approval of proposed project changes from any other NEA office does not constitute an approved change to an award.** Detailed information is included in the NEA's General Terms & Conditions for Grants to Organizations.

Project Reporting and Evaluation

Before applying, review the reporting requirements for the NEA's Final Reports. If you have any questions about the agency's objectives or the required final reports, contact NEA staff.

All recipients are required at minimum to submit a Final Descriptive Report (FDR), a Federal Financial Report (FFR), a Geographic Location of Project Activity Report (GEO), and a Research Product within 120 days of the end of their period of performance. Any project that extends beyond one year may be required to submit an annual progress report. Further information on the Research Product is included below.

Through Research awards, we intend to achieve the following objective in the NEA FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan: *Produce research, statistics, and general information about the arts for the benefit of the arts sector and beyond.* If an award is received, the recipient will be asked to provide evidence of those results.

You are required to maintain project documentation, including financial records, for three (3) years following submission of your final reports.

Product Requirement for Research Grants in the Arts:

Within 120 days of the end of their period of performance, recipients will be required to submit **a 20-50-page Research Product** that is of publishable quality and that, at a minimum, includes two separate components: an abstract/executive summary and a full research paper:

- **Abstract/Executive Summary**

- o The *abstract/executive summary* of the project should consist of a 1-5-page summary of the study's research goals, methods, findings, conclusions, and implications for research, policy, and/or practice.
- o **Abstracts/executive summaries must be targeted toward both technical and non-technical audiences.**

- **Full Research Paper**
  - o *Full research papers* (excluding the abstract and executive summary) typically are comprehensive accounts of the project. The exact format and organization of the full research papers may vary depending on the project scope and distribution plans; see the [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page for examples of previous recipients' final research products. These include, but are not limited to, academic research articles; white or grey papers; and books, handbooks, or book chapters.
  - o Full research papers usually contain the following components:
    - An explanation of why the research topic and related question(s) are important.
    - A review of existing literature or previous work on the topic, if any, including a description of the theory being tested and hypotheses, if appropriate.
    - A description of the methods, such as descriptions of the research participants, sample characteristics and/or data source characteristics, procedures, measures and assessments, and the data analysis plan.
    - A summary of the analysis conducted, and related findings.
    - A conclusions section, including interpretations of the findings and discussion of whether the results supported or did not support any research hypotheses as appropriate; strengths and limitations of the research; future directions; and research and/or policy recommendations based on the findings.
    - A list of works cited or references.
    - Tables and figures, as appropriate (these can be included in the body of the paper if desired, rather than at the end).
    - Any appendices or supplementary material.
    - Contact information of the corresponding author (name and email at a minimum) and websites for where the papers, products, and data of the project may be available beyond the NEA website, if applicable. This section should also include whether raw data and/or meta-data will be accessible or shared, and if so, procedures to obtain the raw data and/or meta-data (these details can be included in the title page of the paper).

For translational research projects, recipients are encouraged, but not required, to also submit a research product that can be used easily by practitioners or researchers who might be interested in developing a similar program, model, or tool.

It is our intention to publish recipients' research papers on our website. We also understand that some of our recipients may desire to publish their work in other venues, such as peer-review research journals, books, or other types of publications. With this possibility in mind, we intend to post final research papers as "working papers;" if the papers are published or become published, then we will replace any working papers with the published versions. However, you may request a one-year embargo (a restriction) on electronic access to your final research papers through the Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings page. Should we agree to restrict access to your final paper, then your name, the title of your work, a description of your research, and the abstract will be available via our website, but the full text version will not be available for viewing or download until the embargo period has passed.

Please contact the NEA if you are contacted by the press or if you proactively engage the press about your awarded research through such outlets as commercial newspapers (and their websites), radio, and TV; public broadcasting stations; community and alternative newspapers and newsletters; college and high school papers and stations; noncommercial and community access stations; listservs; news websites; membership websites (if relevant); and blogs. You may notify us of your media engagement and publications at NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Ownership and Use of Materials

Any materials produced under a Research Grant in the Arts award, including but not limited to academic research articles, white/grey papers, books/handbooks/book chapters, training materials, research, and data, (the "Material"), are deemed to be owned by the recipient. The recipient must use the Material in a manner consistent with the award terms and conditions including, but not limited to, crediting requirements. The NEA reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the Material for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. (2 CFR 200.315).

Legal Requirements and Assurance of Compliance

The **Legal Requirements** section on our website provides information about key legal requirements that may apply to an applicant or grantee. It is not an exhaustive list, more details may be found in Appendix A of the General Terms & Conditions.

By signing and submitting the application form on Grants.gov, the Applicant certifies that it is in compliance with the statutes outlined in the **Assurance of Compliance** and all related National Endowment for the Arts regulations as well as all applicable executive orders, and that it will maintain records and submit the reports that are necessary to determine its compliance.

It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are compliant with all legal, regulatory, and policy requirements applicable to your award.

Accessibility

As outlined in the [Assurance of Compliance](#), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the NEA's implementing regulation, all NEA-funded projects are required to be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities may be artists, performers, audiences, visitors, teaching artists, students, staff, and volunteers. Funded activities must be held in a physically-accessible venue, and program access and effective communication must be provided for participants and audience members with disabilities.

If your project is recommended for funding, you will be asked to provide detailed information describing how you will make your project physically and programmatically accessible to people with disabilities:

- Buildings and facilities (including projects held in historic facilities) must be physically accessible. The following are some examples, but are not an exhaustive list:
  - Ground-level/no-step entry, ramped access, and/or elevators to project facilities and outdoor spaces;
  - Wheelchair-accessible box office, stage/backstage, meeting, and dressing rooms;
  - Wheelchair-accessible restrooms and water fountains;
  - Directional signage for accessible entrances, restrooms, and other facilities; and
  - Accessible workspaces for employees.
- The programmatic activities must be accessible either as part of the funded activity or upon request, where relevant. The following are some examples, but they are not an exhaustive list:
  - Accommodations for performances, tours, virtually streamed events, conferences, and lectures, such as sign language interpretation, real-time captioning, and audio description;
  - Print materials in alternative formats, such as large-print brochures/labels/programs, braille, and electronic/digital formats;
  - Accessible and screen reader-compatible electronic materials, documents, websites, and virtual platforms, and alternative text for images;
  - Closed/open captioning and audio/visual description for video, film, television broadcasts, and virtual events;
  - Auxiliary aids and devices, such as assistive listening devices.

Costs associated with project-related programmatic accommodations, such as those listed above, may be included in an NEA grant budget. However, costs associated with physical construction or renovation expenses may not be included in the grant budget.
In accordance with the General Terms & Conditions, a Section 504 self-evaluation must be on file at your organization, and you must have a designated 504/accessibility coordinator on staff.

For technical assistance on how to make your project accessible, contact the Accessibility Office at accessibility@arts.gov, 202-682-5532; or the Civil Rights Office at civilrights@arts.gov, 202-682-5454; or see our online [Accessibility Resources](#).

Accessibility Requirements for Research Award Products

Ensure that your products are developed in a format readable by screen reading software. Provide a text equivalent for every non-text element, such as tables, charts, and photos by tagging them with alternate text descriptions (alt text) and captions. Do not use color-coding as the only method of conveying information.

Civil Rights

Projects may reach a particular group or demographic (such as sex, disability, economic status race, color or national origin, including limited English proficiency); however, projects may not be exclusionary under Federal civil rights laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. This extends to hiring practices, artist selection processes, and audience engagement. The NEA recognizes that selection criteria in research projects that focus on specific populations are warranted where nondiscriminatory justifications establish that such criteria are appropriate for the scientific study design and/or the purpose of the research. Therefore, federal funding for research projects with a focus on a particular group or demographic may be permissible. Please review the Assurance of Compliance which outlines the relevant federal statutes, NEA regulations, and executive orders. For additional guidance regarding how this applies to the NEA grant program, please contact NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

The Office of Civil Rights investigates complaints about compliance with accessibility standards as well as other federal civil rights statutes. For further information and copies of the nondiscrimination regulations, contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or civilrights@arts.gov.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Notice

Disclosure Notice: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) may share a copy of awarded applications and/or related materials submitted to the NEA by the applicants, with the public or other third parties, where required or permitted by law.

Standards for Service

The National Endowment for the Arts has set the following standards for serving applicants. We pledge to:

- Treat you with courtesy and efficiency.
- Respond to inquiries and correspondence promptly.
- Provide clear and accurate information about our policies and procedures.
- Provide timely information about funding opportunities and make guidelines available promptly.
- Ensure that all eligible applications are reviewed thoughtfully and fairly.

We welcome your comments on how we are meeting these standards. Email: webmgr@arts.gov, attention: Standards for Service.

For questions about these guidelines or your application, email NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov. In addition, applicants may receive an invitation to participate in a voluntary survey to provide feedback on the grant application guidelines on our website and any experiences consulting with our staff.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 26 hours per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. We welcome any suggestions that you might have on improving the guidelines and making them as easy to use as possible. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: webmgr@arts.gov, attention: Reporting Burden. Note: Applicants are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

ALN 45.024
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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I find out when new guidelines are released?
Guidelines for Research Awards are typically posted in January of each year, with an application deadline in late March. Please monitor our website for updates. You may also email NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov to sign up for our distribution list to receive updates. You can also sign up via Grants.gov.

What is the difference between the Research Grants in the Arts program and the NEA Research Labs program?
- **Research Grants in the Arts** funds discrete research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecosystem or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. See examples of previous Research Grants in the Arts projects. (Prior to Fiscal Year 2020, this program was known as "Research: Art Works.")

- **NEA Research Labs** funds projects that support transdisciplinary research teams, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to produce empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike. The NEA Research Labs offers funding for longer-term research agendas, which may include multiple research studies and activities that build and inform the field throughout the life of an NEA Research Lab. The NEA may enter into up to one subsequent renewal award with the recipient of a NEA Research Labs grant for a project consistent with the intent of the program. Any such future awards, however, would be subject to agency priorities, the availability of funds, recipient performance, and the agency's regular review process.

I am a state arts agency (SAA) or a regional arts organization (RAO), and I am interested in applying for a Research Grants in the Arts grant. Can I apply?
No. SAAs and RAOs cannot apply for a Research Grants in the Arts grant as a recipient, but can apply to the NEA as the official applicant under the Partnership Agreements category.

I am a SAA or RAO, and I am interested in being a partner on an application for a Research Grants in the Arts grant. Can I serve as a partner?
Yes. SAAs or RAOs may participate as a partner; however, no federal or cost share/matching funds included in the Partnership Agreement or any other NEA award can be given to or provided by the SAA or RAO in support of the Research project.

Do I need to include citation references in my proposal, and if so, where do I put them?
Yes. References should be included in the Project Narrative section of the Grant Application Form. Do not include them as a special attachment; the files will be removed.

What method of citation is preferred?
We do not currently have any requirements regarding the style of citation. Common citation formats include but are not limited to APA, AMA, Chicago, and MLA. Do not use footnoting in

the text fields of the Grant Application Form, although this is acceptable for any PDF attachments.

We missed the application deadline. Can I submit a late application?
No. Please review the information under [Exceptions to the Submissions Deadlines](#).

Will you contact me if my application is missing anything?
No. Due to the volume of applications, we have a strict approach to incomplete applications. For your application to be considered complete, every required item MUST be included in your application package, which must be submitted no later than the application deadline date. Staff will not contact applicants to request missing material. Allow at least six weeks to prepare your application and other supplementary information. Do not wait until the day of the deadline to submit.

One of the proposed research staff is unable to complete the ethics training on human subjects research protections and thus cannot supply the required certificate of completion of the training. Is there an alternative to the requirement for this person that would allow him/her to continue as a researcher on the project without the certificate?
We require ALL researchers involved in human subjects research and data to demonstrate a plan for completion of a human subjects research protections ethics training course. If a particular researcher is unable to provide a plan for this training, then that person may not collect, process, or analyze data from human subjects as part of the project, but may serve in another research capacity.

Can I get a sample application?
Examples under the Research Grants in the Arts category (previously known as the Research: Art Works grant category) can be found in the [FOIA Reading Room, Frequently Requested Records](#).

How soon after the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project" for my deadline does my project have to begin?
The project can start any time on or after that date.

Can my project start before this date?
No. Proposed project activities for which you are requesting support cannot take place before this date. Pre-award costs are not authorized. Ask the NEA to fund only the portion of your project that will take place after the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project." If you include project costs that are incurred before the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project" in your Project Budget, they will be removed.

How long can my project last? May I apply for another project during this period?
Research Grants in the Arts generally allows a period of performance of up to three years. Within the limits of the guidelines, ask for the amount of time that you think is necessary to complete your project.

If you get close to the end of your award period and need more time, you may request an extension, but approval is not guaranteed.

An eligible organization may apply for funding for another project (with totally different project costs) in a subsequent year(s) even if a NEA-supported project is still underway. Note that if you do receive an extension on an existing award, it may affect your new proposed project. All requests for changes and extensions to awards must be submitted through a proper REACH account.

Can federally recognized tribes apply?
Yes, in keeping with federal policies of Tribal Self Governance and Self-Determination, we may provide support for a project with a primary audience restricted to enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. Applicants (federally recognized tribal governments, nonprofits situated on federally recognized tribal lands, or other nonprofits whose mission primarily serves federally recognized tribal enrollees) should consult with NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov to verify their eligibility before preparing an application.

Can non-federally recognized tribes apply?
Yes, and as long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization. Projects for non-federally recognized tribes and indigenous groups may be supported, but project participation cannot be restricted to only tribal members.

Can Native Hawaiian groups apply?
Yes, and as long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization. Projects for Native Hawaiians may be supported, but project participation cannot be restricted to only Native Hawaiians.

Can our organization use funds we received from other federal agencies as cost share/match for Research Grants in the Arts award?
No. Federal funds are not allowed to be used as cost share/match for federal grants (this includes the Paycheck Protection Program from the Small Business Administration (SBA), as well as other federal funding, including but not limited to funding from:

- AmeriCorps
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Institutes of Health
- National Park Service
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Education (e.g., grants from the Institute of Education Sciences)

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or
- An entity that receives federal appropriations, such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or Amtrak

My organization received other NEA awards, such as Grants for Arts Projects, Our Town, or NEA Research Labs funding. Can we also apply to Research Grants in the Arts?
Yes. You can apply as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. However, you need to be sure that the projects are distinctly different and that there are no overlapping costs during the same grant period.

How should my organization formulate its project if we're not sure whether in-person research and associated activities will be possible? Will it be possible to make project changes if needed later in the process?
You should do your best to complete information within the application to the best of your knowledge. If you are recommended for an award, you will have an opportunity to request changes (e.g., a time extension, a modification to project activities) as outlined in the How to Manage Your Award Handbook.

We will work with you to try to accommodate changes to your project, but approval is not guaranteed. If you need to request a change, please contact the NEA at both grants@arts.gov and NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov to discuss what is possible. Only the NEA Office of Grants Management is authorized to amend or change an NEA award. Written and/or verbal approval of proposed project changes from any other NEA office does not constitute an approved change to an award.