FUNDING THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts

Every congressional district—large and small, urban and rural—benefits from National Endowment for the Arts grants. Arts Endowment funding supports thousands of organizations, performances, and activities that provide opportunities for Americans to engage with the arts in their communities.

156,000 grants awarded by the NEA since its inception in 1965

$5.6 B in support of arts in America

1:1 MATCH with direct grants

Each dollar awarded by the Arts Endowment in direct grants to nonprofit organizations leverages up to nine dollars in private and other public funds.

$500 M in direct matching support

WHERE DO THE ARTS ENDOWMENT’S GRANTS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES?

- 12% Non-metropolitan areas
- 80% Metropolitan areas
- 8% Metros >250 K people
- 7% Metros 250 K – <1 M people
- 24% Metros 1 M – <4.6 M people
- 40% Metros >4.6 M people

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

grants awarded by the NEA since its inception in 1965

with direct grants

$500 M

Each year, the National Endowment for the Arts awards more than 2,000 grants to organizations for arts projects totaling around $57 million.

Who Benefits from Arts Endowment Grants?

35% of Arts Endowment grants reach low-income audiences or under-served populations, such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.

62% of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.

The smallest organizations (those with budgets <$250K) account for 22% of all NEA direct grants.

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The National Endowment for the Arts 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.

As of May 2021

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Excludes awards in the following categories: state and regional partnerships, Federal partnerships, fellowships, translation, and CARES Act grants.

SIZE OF GRANTS

27% - $10,000 or less
16% - $10,000 - $10,000
28% - $30,000+

66% of grants go to small and medium NGOs (up to $2M in prior year expenditures).