



National Endowment for the Arts—FY 2021 Support of Literary Arts

Literature Fellowships

As part of the first grantmaking announcement of FY 2021, the National Endowment for the Arts announced **\$1.2 million in FY 2021 Literature Fellowships to creative writers and translators**, supporting both the development of new works of American literature and the translation into English of literary prose, poetry, and drama from writers around the world.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these talented poets and literary translators,” said Amy Stolls, director of literary arts and the Arts Endowment. “Creative Writing Fellowships often provide writers with crucial support and encouragement, and in return our nation is enriched by their artistic contributions in the years to come. Through our Literature Translation Fellowships, not only do many of the world’s talented writers reach a new audience, but also new and different perspectives and experiences are made available to readers in this country.”

Click [here](#) for a list of the Literature Fellowships to creative writers and translators. More information about the recommended translation projects can be found in the NEA’s [grant announcement](#).

Creative Writing Fellowships:

The National Endowment for the Arts will award 35 Creative Writing Fellowships of \$25,000 each, for a total of \$875,000. Fellowships alternate each year between poetry and prose and this year’s fellowships are to support poetry. The Arts Endowment received 1,601 eligible applications, which were reviewed anonymously by a panel solely on the basis of artistic excellence of the writing sample submitted. These fellowships allow recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. None of the FY 2021 Creative Writing Fellows have previously received a fellowship from the Arts Endowment.

Since 1967, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded more than 3,600 Creative Writing Fellowships totaling over \$56 million. Many recipients have gone on to receive the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and Fiction. These include Anthony Doerr, Louise Erdrich, Tyehimba Jess, Jennifer Egan, and Juan Felipe Herrera. Visit [arts.gov](#) to browse bios, artist statements, and writing excerpts from a sample of past Creative Writing Fellows.

Literature Translation Fellowships:

The National Endowment for the Arts will award 24 Literature Translation Fellowships of \$12,500 or \$25,000 for a total of \$325,000. These fellowships will support the English translation of works written in 16 different languages and from 19 different countries.

Since 1981, the Arts Endowment has awarded 528 fellowships to 467 translators, with translations representing 74 languages and 88 countries. Past recipients include Natasha Wimmer, whose fellowship supported her translation of Roberto Bolaño's *2666*, and Jennifer Croft, whose fellowship supported her translation of Nobel Prize-winner Olga Tokarczuk's *Flights*. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to browse bios, artist statements, and writing excerpts from a sample of past Literature Fellows in Translation.

Grants to Literary Arts Organizations

In addition to the Fellowships, as part of the first announcement of FY 2021 Grants for Arts Projects, the National Endowment for the Arts will award **56 grants totaling \$1,140,000** for literary arts projects (access the full press release [here](#)). These grants are focused on publishing projects; grants for audience and professional development projects will be announced in Spring 2021. Information about each recommended project for this round of FY 2021 Grants for Arts Projects is available through the [Recent Grant Search tool](#).

Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more about the agency's support of the literary arts, which also includes initiatives like the **NEA Big Read**—grants to support community reading programs—and **Poetry Out Loud**, a poetry recitation competition for high school students.