

Literature inspires, enriches, educates, and entertains. It reminds us that there is beauty and joy in language, that others have insights worth paying attention to, that in our struggles we are not alone. By helping writers and translators create new work and connect with audiences through publishers and other literary organizations and programs, the National Endowment for the Arts celebrates literature as an essential reflection of our nation's rich diversity of voices.

**Funding through the literature program to nonprofits, 1966-2016:**

**\$116.6 million**

**Funding through the literature program to individual writers, 1966-2016:**

**\$46 million**

### ADVANCING LEARNING

The National Endowment for the Arts supports writers of all levels in developing their creative abilities.

- The NEA supports craft workshops, retreats, and educational tools for both emerging and established writers, allowing them to receive the mentorship and community support they need to create their best work.
- The NEA is instrumental in bringing a diversity of literary programming to such venues as senior centers, prisons, hospitals, libraries, grocery stores, and parks across the country, providing opportunities for a variety of audiences to engage with, and learn from, contemporary writers.

By engaging high school students across the country in the public recitation of poetry, the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Out Loud program builds students' self-confidence and encourages a lasting love of poetry.

- Since 2005, the Poetry Out Loud program has grown to reach more than 3 million students and 45,000 teachers from 10,000 schools nationwide.
- The geographic range of the program is truly national with students involved from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Students from public, private, parochial, alternative, and home schools participate in the Poetry Out Loud program, reflecting a diverse cross-section of the country.



## FUELING CREATIVITY

Through its creative writing fellowships program, the National Endowment for the Arts gives writers the time and space to create, revise, conduct research, and connect with readers.

- Since 1967, the creative writing fellowships program has awarded more than \$45 million and more than 3,400 fellowships to a diverse group of nearly 3,000 writers, many of them emerging writers at the start of their careers.
- The creative writing fellowships program is arguably the most egalitarian grant program in its field: applications are free and open to the public; fellows are selected through an anonymous review process in which the sole criterion is artistic excellence; and the judging panel varies year to year and is always diverse with regard to geography, ethnicity, gender, age, and life experience.
- Since 1990, 95 of the 164 American recipients of the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and Fiction were recipients of NEA Fellowships earlier in their careers.

Through its literary translation fellowships, the National Endowment for the Arts gives translators the time and space to create masterful renditions of the world's best literature, making these works accessible to American audiences.

- Since 1981, the NEA has awarded 433 fellowships to 383 translators, with translations representing 67 languages and 81 countries.
- The NEA's translation fellowships program is one of the oldest, largest, and most consistent funding opportunities for literary translators and, combined with the NEA's support of translation publishers and presenters, has had a significant impact on the quality and quantity of international literature available in our country.

## CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

The National Endowment for the Arts supports a dynamic range of literary programming, bringing communities together to explore and celebrate contemporary literature.

- The NEA's support of local book festivals, literary centers, reading series, and online endeavors allows readers to engage with the written word more deeply and directly, and for writers and readers to meaningfully connect.

The National Endowment for the Arts' community reading initiative—NEA Big Read—broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

- Since 2006, the Big Read has awarded more than 1,300 grants totaling more than \$18 million to organizations in communities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- More than 4.7 million Americans have attended a Big Read event, approximately 79,000 volunteers have participated locally, and 37,000 community organizations have partnered to make Big Read activities possible.

## BUILDING THE FIELD

The National Endowment for the Arts provides vital support to the literary ecosystem by helping writers create, publish, and connect with readers, and helping readers have access to a true diversity of voices.

- The NEA's investment in nonprofit journals and presses fosters an environment in which a diversity of literary work—in many cases, work overlooked by mainstream publishers—is realized on the page and screen, and widely available to American readers.

- The NEA strengthens the network of literary organizations by facilitating conversations about challenges and opportunities within the field of literature, as well as across all arts disciplines.

