

Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment 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.

The National Endowment for the Arts is the only funder, public or private, to support the arts in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The agency awards more than \$120 million annually with each grant dollar matched by up to nine dollars from other funding sources.

**Economic Impact of the Arts**

The arts generate more money to local and state economies than several other industries. According to data released by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts contributed \$804.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016, more than agriculture or transportation, and employed 5 million Americans.

**Local Arts Agencies**

Across the United States, more than 4,500 local arts agencies (LAAs) provide a wide range of programs and services. LAAs are intermediaries, serving artists and arts organizations, local residents, visitors, and other community partners. No two LAAs are alike—whether they serve a single village, or town, or a multistate region. Some LAAs are departments of local government, others are nonprofit organizations, and still others are hybrids of the two.

**FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES PROGRAM:**

Direct grants awarded, 1984-2018:

\$67.3 million

Direct grants awarded, 2018:

\$1.47 million

**2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES**

*Investing in local priorities through grant programs:* **The City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture in Arizona**, to support the Phoenix Neighborhood Arts grants program. The Office of Arts and Culture partners with the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and Neighborhood Services Department to enable artists to work within their own communities and provide them with necessary funding.

*Transforming public spaces:* **BreckCreate in Breckenridge, Colorado**, to support pop-up art projects and large-scale installations at summertime festivals and events to animate and enhance the local environment.

*Funding youth arts programs:* **Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in Florida**, to support youth arts programs at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Miami’s Liberty City neighborhood, including after-school art classes in performing and visual arts and school-break camps and workshops.



## 2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES, CONTINUED

*Increasing visibility for local artists:* **Shreveport Regional Arts Council in Shreveport, Louisiana**, to support professional development initiatives for local artists, including residencies, commissions, and curated exhibitions to bring their work into the public eye.

*Bringing the arts to infrastructure:* **Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, North Carolina**, to support the second phase of the Burnsville Art Vision Plan and to integrate designs by local and regional artists into transit infrastructure such as utility boxes and traffic light poles, enhancing the ongoing beautification of the nearby highway and providing gateway entrances to the town.

*Building Community:* **Dublin Arts Council in Dublin, Ohio**, to support the B.R.E.A.D! Festival. The acronym B.R.E.A.D stands for Bake, Reconnect, Educate, make Art, and celebrate Diversity. The festival originated in response to community requests for programming offering culturally diverse experiences in arts, music, dance, and food.

*Ensuring access and inclusion:* **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council in Pennsylvania**, to support the Increasing Accessibility in Pittsburgh's Arts and Culture initiative, designed to help arts and culture organizations welcome people with disabilities to their facilities, programs, and events.

## RESEARCH

*Rural Arts, Design, and Innovation in America (2017)*, a report published by the Arts Endowment's Office of Research & Analysis, stems from a research collaboration with the Economic Research Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It analyzes data from the Rural Establishment Innovation Survey of the Economic Research Service at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The report quantifies relationships among arts organizations, design-integrated firms, and business innovators in rural settings as well as local arts activities in rural communities.

## RESOURCES

*Rural Prosperity through the Arts and Creative Sector: A Rural Action Guide for Governors and States (2019)* is a publication of the National Governors Association in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. The action guide synthesizes a growing body of research showing how the creative economy can help rural communities thrive including how those communities that lose traditional industries might capitalize on their creative assets to realize a new future.

*National Endowment for the Arts Readiness and Resilience Convening: Summary of Proceedings (2016)*. Since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, preparedness and response has broadened to embrace "readiness and resiliency" in recognition of the role of the arts and cultural sector in natural disasters, periods of civic unrest, and acts of terrorism and violence. On April 19, 2016, the NEA convened a cross-sector panel of experts working in this arena to outline strategies to advance this important work.

For more information on local arts agencies at the NEA, go to [arts.gov/artistic-fields/local-arts-agencies](https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/local-arts-agencies). For more information on the NEA and its programs, go to [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov). The NEA is on Twitter @NEAarts as well as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and iTunes.

