

Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** 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 in February 2019 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. This data also reveals that the motion picture industry contributed \$105.7 billion to U.S. GDP in 2016.

FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM:

Direct grants awarded, 1966-2018:

\$352.6 million

Direct grants awarded, 2018:

\$5.1 million

2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES

Reaching underserved audiences: **Koahnic Broadcast Corporation in Anchorage, Alaska**, to support production and distribution for a radio-based multimedia project featuring Native storytellers, including audio from Koahnic's oral history archives as well as new stories from Native Elders and culture bearers.

Supporting film festivals across the country: **Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute in Hot Springs, Arkansas**, to support the 2018 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and associated public programs. In partnership with the Arkansas Education Television Network, the festival offers a two-day filmmaking program for junior high and high school students from across Arkansas.

Enhancing resources for art school and university students: **Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, to support the development of creative open-source software at the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry alongside the collaboration of artists and software engineers. The software is used in classrooms worldwide, often in art schools and visual arts programs in universities

Engaging students with emerging technology: **Parallel Studios in Santa Fe, New Mexico**, to support Parallel Studio's educational initiatives for young students and the 2018 Currents New Media Festival, which exhibits many free interactive installations, video and film screenings, virtual reality, and web and app-based art formats.



2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES, CONTINUED

Encouraging community creativity: **Maryland Institute in Baltimore, Maryland**, to support free community workshops, project pitch and feedback sessions, and seminars featuring nationally-recognized filmmakers that connect each artist's work to social, creative, or cultural issues in Baltimore.

Funding independent filmmakers: **Sundance Institute in Park City, Utah**, to support artistic and professional resources for independent filmmakers through the Feature Film Program, from development through distribution.

BUILDING THE MEDIA ARTS FIELD

The National Endowment for the Arts has been a key source of support for public television and radio as well as film preservation initiatives since the 1960s, launching and sustaining series that are an integral part of American culture.

- The NEA's Public Media program was inaugurated in 1967 with early initiatives focused on launching television broadcasts of the performing arts, such as *Dance in America* on PBS, featuring performances by Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, the New York City Opera, and American Ballet Theatre.
- In 1967, the NEA partnered with the Motion Picture Association of America and the Ford Foundation to establish the American Film Institute and to support its film preservation efforts, providing sub-grants totaling \$12.7 million to more than 40 organizations across the country.

In response to the growing urgency of conversations about career sustainability for independent makers in the non-fiction community, the National Endowment for the Arts has entered into a new partnership with Sundance Institute to strengthen the infrastructure of this field. Through knowledge exchange, cross-sector collaboration, and research, this partnership aims to advance sustainable economic relationships and equitable opportunities in the field.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

State of the Field: A Report from the Documentary Sustainability Summit (2017) released in partnership with the International Documentary Association, investigates issues facing the documentary film community, with a goal of laying out strategies and initiatives to positively impact the field and contribute to a sustainable and healthy ecosystem for documentary professionals. Additional resources can be found on the Arts Endowment's Documentary Sustainability Initiatives page, including a series of related webinars and a convening toolkit.

Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Facing U.S. Artists, (2016) updated the findings of the Urban Institute's 2003 study *Investing in Creativity*, which identified support systems necessary for artists. It is clear that many aspects of the environment and market for artists' work have changed profoundly in the past decade, including developments in technologies, public perceptions of creative workers, marketplace opportunities, demographics, and aesthetic practices.

For more information on media arts at the NEA, go to [arts.gov/artistic-fields/media-arts](https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/media-arts). 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.

