

The National Endowment for the Arts is committed to supporting museum activity that reflects exceptional aesthetic investigation and meaningful community engagement, specifically through the support of exhibitions, care of collections, conservation, commissions, public art works, community engagement, education activities, and other museum work.

Funding through the museums program, 1971-2015:

\$340.1 million

ADVANCING LEARNING

The National Endowment for the Arts funds public programming in museums.

- Museum staff develop programming including lectures, gallery talks, classroom learning, and performances, covering a broad range of topics related to works of art, artists, art history, and the creative process.
- Museum programming facilitates dialogue between artists, scholars, critics, and art historians to engage the public in the discussion of topical issues.
- Museums serve as resource centers, making their collections, libraries, and archives available for the public and researchers.
- According to the NEA's *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, visual arts is the second most commonly studied art form, after music, with nearly one-fifth of all American adults having taken visual arts classes in their lifetime.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports professional development for teachers to enhance their skills and incorporate the visual arts into the curriculum.

- Programs offered by museums provide teachers with focused, quality arts instruction in the art forms themselves and with curriculum ideas for using the arts as a tool to teach other subjects.
- Museum educational programming is offered both on- and off-site, creating diverse learning opportunities.

The National Endowment for the Arts funds production of print, audio, and digital materials that enhance the museum experience.

- Exhibitions often include production of catalogues that are available both online and in print.
- Museums develop audio, digital and other interactive platforms to provide the public with more ways to engage with the artwork.
- Many museums provide online access to their collections.



FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts supports museums' commissioning of new artistic work and hosting residencies that provide artists with time, space, and resources to create.

- Over the last decade, the NEA awarded more than \$2.6 million in museum grants to support artist commissions and residencies.



CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

The National Endowment for the Arts has supported thousands of museum exhibitions, significantly increasing access to the arts.

- In the last decade, the NEA awarded \$29 million to museums to support exhibitions.
- Museum exhibitions are diverse in content, spanning time, continents, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and gender.
- Museum exhibitions feature a variety of art forms, including sculpture, painting, photography, works on paper, ceramics, mixed media, and installations.
- Museum exhibitions showcase work in outdoor spaces, such as sculpture gardens, botanical gardens, and rooftops.
- The NEA administers the U.S. government's Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program to minimize the costs of insuring domestic and international exhibitions for U.S. museums.
- The Arts and Artifact Indemnity Program significantly expands opportunities for audiences to see great works of art and has saved U.S. museums more than \$400 million in insurance costs.

Museums are public stewards that reflect the character of the nation or their local community through their collections.

- Many museums offer free or low-cost access to their collections, exhibitions, and programs, including community days, open houses, and after-hours events without admission charge.
- Museums serve as community hubs where, in addition to viewing art work and attending programs, the public can enjoy amenities and services ranging from libraries, auditoriums, and classrooms, to dining and retail.

The National Endowment for the Arts' funding supports art documentation, research, and conservation to assure that America's arts heritage is preserved and made available to current and future generations.

- In the last decade, the NEA awarded more than \$2.1 million for conservation projects.
- NEA-funded museums support apprenticeship opportunities in collections care and conservation.

