

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 and Music

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 and cultural industries contributed \$804.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016, more than agriculture or transportation, and employed 5 million Americans. The data also shows that in 2016 U.S. consumers spent \$32.7 billion on admission to performing arts events including \$2.5 billion on symphony orchestras and chamber groups.

## FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS MUSIC PROGRAM:

Direct grants awarded, 1966-2018:

\$434.9 million

Direct grants awarded in 2018:

\$5.34 million

## 2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES

*Reaching audiences in rural communities:* **Sonny Boy Blues Society in Helena, Arkansas**, to support the King Biscuit Blues Festival. The multi-day festival will feature as many as 250 blues and gospel artists in free-of-charge and ticketed performances on several stages.

*Continuing the agency's decades-long support of jazz:* **Jazz Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois**, to support the JazzCity series of free concert performances throughout the city celebrating NEA Jazz Master Von Freeman.

*Commissioning new work:* **Silk Road Project in Boston, Massachusetts**, to support commissioning and development of an evening-length, multimedia music and performance work, *Heroes Take Their Stands*.

*Serving indigenous communities:* **South Dakota Symphony Orchestra in Sioux Falls, South Dakota**, to support the Lakota Music Project, a collaboration between the orchestra and the United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota that includes an original work that honors five Lakota warriors.

*Providing insights on important issues:* **Nashville Symphony Orchestra in Nashville, Tennessee**, to support commissioning, performing, and recording a new work for restored instruments that were played by musicians interned in concentration camps during the Holocaust.

*Encouraging development of emerging artists:* **Yellow Barn in Putney, Vermont**, to support a professional artistic development project during its summer chamber music festival.



## LIFETIME HONOR AND PARTNERSHIP

The **NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship** is the highest honor that our nation bestows on jazz artists. Each year since 1982, the program recognizes living legends who have made exceptional contributions to the advancement of jazz. Honorees receive a \$25,000 fellowship, are celebrated in a free public concert, and share their expertise through NEA-sponsored outreach activities. The 2019 NEA Jazz Masters are Stanley Crouch, Bob Dorough, Abdullah Ibrahim, and Maria Schneider.

Beginning in 2017, the NEA has contributed expertise to **Sound Health**, a partnership with the National Institutes of Health and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to promote knowledge about music's relationship to brain development, learning, health, and well-being through public performances, presentations, and participation.

## BUILDING THE MUSIC FIELD

Music programs on radio and television have tremendous reach, and the National Endowment for the Arts has consistently supported these programs, providing millions of people with free access to the arts. These programs include the television series *Live from Lincoln Center*.

In 1977, the agency helped establish Chorus America, a service organization for choral music that now serves more than 6,000 choruses, individuals, businesses, and organizations.

The Meet the Composer Orchestra Residencies program was a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts, Exxon Corporation, and the Rockefeller Foundation that produced 500 commissions and 25 recordings over a ten-year period before merging in 2011 with the American Music Center to form New Music USA.

## RESEARCH

The NEA's report *U.S. Trends in Arts Attendance and Literary Reading: 2002-2017 (2018)* is a first look at results from the 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. The report found that adult attendance at classical music and jazz events held steady from 2012 to 2017 despite a five percent increase in U.S. adult population.

The National Endowment for the Arts invested \$460,000 in 2018 funding through NEA Research Labs and Research: Art Works grants to fund music-based studies such as:

- An NEA Research Lab supports Vanderbilt University Medical Center to conduct studies in partnership with the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Opera, and Borderless Arts Tennessee. The first is to assess the social and emotional effects of music on children with autism and their parents, and the second will be a national survey of music engagement by families with and without children with autism.
- A Research: Art Works grant supports Carnegie Hall to conduct a study examining factors that predict persistence in the study of classical music from students in its NYO2 program, a national orchestra that recruits underserved youth to study classical music.

Through Creative Forces™: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, the agency supports research on the impacts of creative art therapies (such as music therapy) on military patients recovering from post-traumatic stress and other physiological health conditions such as *Music therapy treatment of active duty military: An overview of intensive outpatient and longitudinal care programs*.

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

