

FAQs on FY 2018 Budget

The President's budget proposes to begin shutting down the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2018. What does that mean for its programs, as well as current and potential grantees?

The NEA is fully funded in FY 2017 and continues to make FY 2017 grant awards and honor all obligated grant funds made to date. The President's FY 2018 budget proposes the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts, with a request for \$29 million intended to be used for the orderly shutdown of the agency. In July, the full House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which proposes to fund the NEA at \$145 million. The Senate has not yet taken action on the Interior-Environment bill. We continue to accept grant applications for FY 2018 at our usual deadlines and will continue to operate as usual until a new budget is enacted by Congress.

Can the NEA advocate for its budget?

No. NEA staff, including the NEA chairman, cannot lobby or participate in efforts designed to influence Congress regarding appropriations, law, legislation, or policy, in their official capacity. This prohibition is not limited to the NEA. Federal agencies are prohibited from using federal funds to engage in lobbying either directly or indirectly.

If the NEA can't lobby or participate in advocacy, then what can it do?

The NEA cannot engage in advocacy, either directly or indirectly; however, the agency continues to actively educate the public about the NEA's vital role in serving our nation's communities. Some of the ways we do this include:

- Posting multimedia information on arts.gov that tells the story of how the NEA is helping make an impact in local communities through arts funding to nonprofit organizations, schools, and state and local governments.
- The NEA chairman traveling to local communities to visit an NEA grantee, giving a speech, or participating in a town hall meeting.
- Sharing materials with and responding to inquiries from the media, partners, and general public.
- Responding to requests from members of Congress and their staff.

Where can I find educational information on your website?

There are lots of resources on our website that may prove helpful, including the NEA's [facts and figures](#) page, [NEA Quick Facts](#), and our [grant search utility](#) that allows you to pull Excel spreadsheet reports on our grants. To keep up to date on our latest news, we encourage you to follow the NEA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and check out our [Art Works Blog](#) and [podcast](#) where we highlight the artists and arts organizations that contribute to our culture.



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What can NEA grantees, state and local arts organizations, and national service organizations do to share information about the role of the NEA?

NEA's partners can help to educate their communities on the NEA's role and impact in their communities by continuing to credit the National Endowment for the Arts, in accordance with grant general terms and conditions, in a number of ways:

- Within any materials that describe the project that was funded by the NEA.
- On signage at an event or in a venue that promotes the NEA-funded project.
- Acknowledgment from the stage at an NEA-funded event or performance.
- In opinion editorials published in your local newspaper or other media outlet about your grant.
- Posts on social media about an NEA-supported project.
- Sharing and/or linking to NEA materials on project/grantee website.
- Including @NEArts when you tweet about an NEA-supported project.

If you are a current NEA grantee that needs access to the NEA logo, you can find it in the grants section of our [website](#).

Can I donate money to the NEA?

Congress sets the level of appropriations for the NEA. The NEA has the statutory authority to receive donations; however, donated funds, if accepted by the agency, cannot be used to supplement grantmaking. We encourage you to look to arts organizations in your local community or other groups that support the arts. If you have donation questions, please contact Tony Tighe at tighet@arts.gov.

What is the role of the government when it comes to supporting the arts?

With the NEA's support, the arts contribute to our economy, with the arts and culture sector accounting for \$742 billion, or 4.2 percent, of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and add millions of jobs to our workforce (more than two million full-time artists and nearly five million arts-related jobs). The NEA's role is to make sure all Americans have access to the arts no matter where they live. All 435 Congressional Districts benefit from NEA grants. NEA funding:

- Creates an environment for the arts to bloom and thrive.
- Acts as a catalyst to leverage resources for key investments in communities across the nation.
- Stimulates giving; every dollar invested directly by the NEA is matched by up to \$9 of additional non-federal or private investment.
- Plays a vital role in revitalizing communities, and supports our military service members through a military healing arts program.



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Why can't private giving be the sole supporter of the arts?

Private funding will not sustain the arts nationally if public funding goes away. Charitable giving as a whole in the United States is geographically disproportional, with rural areas receiving only 5.5 percent of all philanthropic dollars. NEA funding makes sure there is equitable distribution of funds, particularly for underserved communities, across the nation. Research shows that even a low level of public funding can stimulate private giving; NEA's funding must be matched by money from other sources. So, when a nonprofit receives an NEA award, it provides the credibility for other funders to step up. In FY 2016, this additional investment resulted in \$500 million in matching support.

Some say many of the programs you fund are elitist. Is NEA funding essentially a subsidy for the wealthy?

Absolutely not. The NEA's role is to make sure all Americans have access to the arts no matter where they live. Among the proudest accomplishments of the NEA is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that were previously underserved or not served at all, especially in rural and inner-city communities. In many communities, NEA grants support free performances, as well as reduced ticket prices for those who cannot afford to buy a ticket. A significant percentage of grants benefit those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts:

- 65 percent of NEA grants go to small and medium-sized organizations, which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.
- 40 percent of NEA-supported activities take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 36 percent of NEA grants go to organizations that reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
- More than half of NEA-funded art events take place in locations where the median household income is less than \$50,000.

