

National Endowment for the Arts Research Agenda for FY 2017-2021

First-Year Progress Report (FY 2017)

This fiscal year, the Office of Research & Analysis (ORA) exceeded its research agenda milestones for the five-year period ending in FY 2021.

The office completed 18 percent of planned research projects. Another 18 percent of projects on the NEA research agenda were still in progress.

In total, the NEA research agenda identifies 22 projects for completion by Sept. 30, 2020. ORA has assigned them different priority levels, based on subjective scoring along a set of criteria: Consequential, Innovative, Additive, and Opportune (CIAO), as described in the research agenda (<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/nea-five-year-research-agenda-dec2016.pdf>).

The scoring has yielded two tiers—15 projects within Tier One (meeting three or more of the CIAO criteria); and seven within Tier Two (meeting fewer than three of the CIAO criteria). ORA has set a five-year performance goal of completing 80 percent of Tier One projects, and 50 percent of Tier Two projects. Across both tiers, the performance goal is 75 percent over five years, averaging 15 percent per year.

As noted in the research agenda, ORA's ability to execute these projects will be influenced greatly by several factors, including changes in funding, personnel, and other resources available to support this work, the arrival of new information concerning these research topics, and the discretion of NEA leadership.

Each year's progress report will summarize progress on the research agenda. Agenda items do not include public webinars or conferences, or research activities supported through grants. Similarly, outcomes from the NEA's research activities are measured and reported elsewhere—in the NEA's annual performance report to the Office of Management & Budget.

In FY 2017, ORA concluded the following projects on the NEA research agenda:

- ✓ Analyzed and reported correlations between arts participation (particularly art-making) and positive physical and psychological health outcomes.

Report:

https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/StayingEngaged_0917_0.pdf

Interactive graphic and additional resources:

<https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis/arts-data-profiles/arts-data-profile-14>

- ✓ Provided technical expertise and consultation in preparing a research synthesis and gap-analysis supporting the development of a five-year clinical research agenda for Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network

Clinical Forces' clinical research agenda:

<https://www.arts.gov/CreativeForcesSummit>

- ✓ Analyzed and reported descriptive statistics and trends concerning arts and cultural industries.

National-level data tables, an interactive graphic, and additional resources:

<https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis/arts-data-profiles/arts-data-profile-12>

- ✓ Analyzed and reported states' comparative contributions to economic growth and employment, by arts and cultural industries.

State-by-state fact-sheets, research briefs, an interactive map, and additional resources, including dashboards and analyses resulting from a collaboration with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA):

<https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis/arts-data-profiles/arts-data-profile-12>

In FY 2017, moreover, ORA began the following projects on the NEA's research agenda:

- Analyze and report the relationship between socioeconomic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of neighborhood residents and their value statements about the arts' importance.
 - Initiated a research contract to support a detailed analysis of data from the 2014 American Housing Survey's Arts & Culture Module.
- Support a NEA Arts Education data initiative that would incentivize state-level reporting of arts education data to the public.
 - Provided technical expertise and consultation services to the NEA's Arts Education division, which launched a cooperative agreement to begin this project.
- Analyze and report on factors such as: frequency, length, and breadth of arts participation; where and with whom participation occurs; geographic, socio-demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal characteristics of participants and non-participants; and longitudinal changes in participation.
 - Authored U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Spotlight on Statistics* web feature on "Expenditures on Admissions to the Arts, Movies, Sporting Events, and Other Entertainment": <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2017/expenditures-on-arts-movies-sporting-events-and-other-entertainments-and-recreational-activities/home.htm>.

- Produced NEA research report, *Staying Engaged: Patterns of Older Adults: Health Patterns of Older Adults Who Participate in the Arts*: (https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/StayingEngaged_0917.pdf), based on the Health & Retirement Study.
- Work with the NEA's Folk & Traditional Arts division to produce a conceptual framework that can be the subject of closer study.
- Published *Qualitative Analysis Findings: Folk & Traditional Arts Partnerships*: (<https://www.arts.gov/publications/qualitative-analysis-findings-folk-traditional-arts-partnerships>).

Other significant ORA activities in FY 2017 involved:

- Completing analysis of the relationship of between arts and design and innovative businesses in rural communities, based on the Rural Establishment Innovation Survey.
- Providing technical expertise and consultation to activities related to *Sound Health*, a partnership between the National Institutes of Health and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in association with the NEA (see <https://www.arts.gov/art-works/2017/taking-note-nih-director-music-brain>).