

Framing Paper

National Endowment for the Arts Tribal Consultation

October 26, 2022

Agency Brief

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is an independent federal agency whose funding helps to support cultural programs nationwide. Established in 1965, the NEA's operating budget in FY22 was \$180million, which is utilized in the form of project and partnership grants, special initiatives, and honorific fellowships to support arts learning, affirm and celebrate America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and to extend and promote equal access to the arts in every community.

The NEA recognizes the critical role that lifeways and cultural fluency play in the health and vitality of Native youth and tribal nations, as well as the important place the arts hold in tribal economies. In alignment with President Biden's [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) and [Executive Order 13175](#), the NEA convened two Tribal Consultation sessions in 2021 (April and August) and [published its Tribal Consultation Policy](#) in October of 2021.

Background Reading

Reports:

[Native Arts & Culture: Resilience, Reclamation, and Relevance](#): A 2021 report from Native Arts & Cultures Foundation summarizing the recommendations of Native arts and humanities leaders from over 40 tribes who participated in a first-ever NEA/NEH national convening of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian cultural leaders and tribal elders. Key recommendations for future action can be found on pages 4-5. Conference takeaways can be found on pages 66-70.

[Sustaining and Advancing Indigenous Cultures: Native Artists Summit](#): A virtual summit co-hosted by ATALM and NEA on May 18, 2021. While a summary report is forthcoming, a listing of the agenda, participants, and other supporting materials is publicly accessible via ATALM's website. This summit built upon – updating and expanding upon - ATALM's 2012 report, [Sustaining Indigenous Culture: The Structure, Activities, and Needs of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#) (see below).

[Investing in the Indigenous Arts Ecology](#): A 2018 report published by First Peoples Fund (Rapid City, SD) First Peoples Fund finds that small investments (grants ranging from \$5,000-\$10,000) coupled with tailored technical assistance help artists increase their annual income by an average 20 percent. The data also demonstrates that when artists are well supported and achieve financial security for themselves and their families, they turn their gifts and energy toward their communities, passing on their skills and knowledge. This report builds on a groundbreaking 2013 [market study by First Peoples Fund](#), which shows that more than half (51 percent) of the reservation-based households in the study rely on a home-based business to support themselves, and 79 percent of those home-based businesses consist of traditional art forms.

[Sustaining Indigenous Culture: The Structure, Activities, and Needs of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#): Ground-breaking report published in 2012 based on a national needs assessment survey conducted by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) in 2010–2011. The report is a part of ATALM's ongoing efforts to assess the status and needs of Native cultural organizations and develop a progressive plan that guides future programs, services, and funding in support of the work of indigenous archives, libraries, and museums.

Resource Guide:

[Federal Resources for Native Arts & Cultural Activities](#): The NEA collaborated with other federal agencies to produce this resource guide, a consolidation of opportunities offered by federal agencies for organizations looking for funding and other resources to support Native arts and cultural activities. The resource guide, published in 2020, is free for download. An updated edition will be available in October of 2022.

DRAFT AGENDA

National Endowment for the Arts 2022 Tribal Consultation

**Wednesday, October 26, 2022
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM PT**

**2022 International Conference of Indigenous Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
Temecula, California**

1. NEA Resources:

1. The NEA is primarily a grantmaking agency, providing resources to support the creative lives of all communities in the United States. Most of these grants are project-specific support – meaning the grant must fund a project being conducted by the grantee. However, our legislation authorizes certain types of organizations – State, Regional and Local Arts Agencies, to subgrant. The NEA is considering a legislative proposal that would permit federally recognized tribes to subgrant funds in the same manner as these groups.
 1. Would Tribes support an NEA legislative proposal that gives tribes the ability to subgrant NEA funds?
 2. What would tribes require and/or want to be able to successfully implement the requirements of a subgranting program.

2. Tribal Engagement through NEA Grants:

1. In past year, the NEA has made grants to Tribal Governments, and Tribal Colleges & Universities. We have also recognized indigenous artists with National Heritage Fellowships. These direct grants to Tribes, Tribal Citizens, and TCUs, and are distinct from the grants we make to native-serving non-profits.
 1. How can the NEA expand on this engagement with Tribes?
2. Our [Folk & Traditional Arts grant guidelines](#) include encouragement to federally recognized tribes to apply for support for “programs whose primary focus is the reanimation, fortification, and continuation of traditional lifeways for tribal communities,” as well as projects focused on repairing and sustaining endangered languages.
 1. How can we increase awareness of this opportunity?

3. Partnerships with tribal-serving organizations:

1. **National Folklife Network:** In the past year, the NEA has launched a new national initiative called the National Folklife Network (NFN), which seeks to create and support cultural heritage networks in the nation's most rural and most impoverished communities. NFN is carried out through a cooperative agreement with the Southwest Folklife Alliance (Tucson, AZ), who work in consortium with First Peoples Fund (Rapid City, SD) and Alliance for California Traditional Arts (Fresno, CA). One emphasis of the NFN is to engage TCUs in the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Rocky Mountain West, and Alaska.
 1. Has this initiative impacted your community?
 2. Do you have any feedback on how we might further develop this program to better serve federally recognized tribes?
2. **Tribal Arts Councils:** During our two national Native arts convenings (2020, 2021), and during our 2021 tribal consultation sessions, we heard Tribal leaders, Native artists, and organizations identify a gap in national arts infrastructure – namely, a need for tribal arts councils. Over the past year, we have observed a growing interest in developing and nurturing the creation of tribal arts councils who can connect with existing federal, regional, and state arts funders as well as philanthropic networks to increase support for the artistic lives of tribal communities.
 1. What role would you like to see the NEA play (if any) in efforts to pilot, nurture, or support tribal arts councils?

Directions for Submitting Comments

Please join us for the consultation on October 26, 2022 beginning at 11:00 AM Pacific Time, and/or submit any written comments by November 16, 2022 to NativeArts@arts.gov.

Consultation Details

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM ET

Location: 2022 International Conference of Indigenous Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), Temecula, California

For more detailed information please visit the conference website at:

<https://www.atalm.org/node/533>

Please RSVP for this meeting by emailing NativeArts@arts.gov.