



Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is the independent federal agency that works to give people across America the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts. Our funding is project-based and goes to thousands of nonprofits each year, along with partnerships and special arts initiatives, research and other support that contribute to the vitality of our neighborhoods, students and schools, workplace and culture. The NEA is the only funder, public or private, that provides equal access to the arts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, supporting activities such as performances, exhibitions, healing arts and arts education programs, festivals, and artist residencies.

## BUDGET

The National Endowment for the Arts' FY2018 appropriation of \$152.8 million constitutes approximately .004 percent of the federal budget. More than 80 percent of the appropriation is distributed as grants and awards to organizations and individuals across the country.

- 40 percent of the NEA's grantmaking budget is awarded directly to the states through their state and regional arts agencies, reaching millions more people in thousands of communities. The NEA designates that a portion of every state and regional partnership grant be allocated to serving underserved communities
- The remaining 60 percent are awards made directly to organizations and individuals that apply through the NEA's funding categories.
- NEA grants provide a significant return on investment of federal dollars with \$1 of NEA direct funding leveraging up to \$9 in private and other public funds, resulting in \$500 million in matching support in 2016.

## FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT

We are fully committed to ensuring that all Americans have access and opportunity to engage with the arts

- In FY 2017, the NEA recommended more than 2,400 grants in every Congressional District in the country.

A recent examination of NEA direct grants showed that the majority go to small and medium sized organizations, which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.

- Small sized organizations (less than \$500,000 in prior year expenditures) received 31 percent of the NEA's direct grants.
- Medium sized organizations (\$500,000 to \$2 million in prior year expenditures) received about 34 percent.
- Large organizations (over \$2 million) 35 percent, of our grant awards.

A significant percentage of grants go to those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts.

- 40% of NEA-supported activities take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 36% of NEA grants go to organizations that reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
- 33% of NEA grants serve low-income audiences.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Federal agencies and non-profit organizations partner with the NEA on national initiatives, using the arts as a platform for enhancing the quality of life for all.

- NEA program examples include; Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, Poetry Out Loud, Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, Blue Star Museums, and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.

For more information and stories about the impact of NEA grants and programs on U.S. communities, please visit [arts.gov](http://arts.gov) or [arts.gov/news/resources-for-media](http://arts.gov/news/resources-for-media).

