

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 NEA 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

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.

## FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PRESENTING & MULTIDISCIPLINARY WORKS PROGRAM:

Through this program, the National Endowment for the Arts supports artistic works and events that present multiple disciplines, combine and/or integrate art forms, explore boundaries between art disciplines, fuse or transcend disciplines, and look to new forms of expression. The Arts Endowment designated a separate funding category for multidisciplinary work in 1980 with the InterArts program which ran until 1990 and was followed by Presenting, Commissioning, and Multidisciplinary.

Direct grants awarded, 1980-2018:

**\$170.8 million**

Direct grants awarded, 2018:

**\$4.4 million**

## 2018 FUNDING EXAMPLES

*Showcasing traditional and contemporary artists:* **Maui Arts & Cultural Center in Kahului, Hawaii**, to support the MACC Presents series including dance, music, and theater performances, as well as a film series and multidisciplinary collaborations.

*Expanding access for people with physical limitations:* **University of Kansas Center for Research in Lawrence, Kansas**, to support a series of multidisciplinary activities utilizing the Adaptive Use Musical Instrument. The AUMI is a software interface that transforms any electronic device with a camera into a flexible musical instrument that can be played by people with limited mobility.



## 2018 PROJECT EXAMPLES, CONTINUED

*Bringing together artists in culinary spaces to serve community:* **Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky**, to support artist residencies and events that bring together visual, conceptual, literary, and media artists with culinary spaces where they will create work in unconventional settings. The partnering organizations—Community Agricultural and Nutritional Enterprises, Letcher County Farmers Market, and the Cowan Community Center—will each work with an artist in residence to create artwork with members of their community.

*Supporting artists through residencies:* **Helena Presents at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena, Montana**, to support a residency with hip-hop theater artist Dahlak Brathwaite and NEA Jazz Master Dr. Lonnie Smith and his trio. Artists will perform and engage with community members.

*Funding creation of new work:* **Culture Mill in Saxapahaw, North Carolina**, to support the creation and presentation of original, site-specific performances with local, national, and international artists in short-term artist residencies.

*Encouraging artistic expression and personal development:* **The Circus Project in Portland, Oregon**, to support introductory circus arts training and public performance opportunities for youth, while also teaching self-care, building trust and communication skills, and practicing ways to evaluate risk and overcome fear.

*Supporting Native artists:* **Native Arts and Cultures Foundation in Vancouver, Washington**, to support a convening of National Native Artist Fellows, where fellows and guest speakers share knowledge around artistic practice, receive professional development, and create networks of support.

*Supporting art and agriculture experiences in rural communities:* **Wormfarm Institute in Reedsburg, Wisconsin**, to support the Farm/Art DTour, a self-guided drive through art installations in the working farmlands of Sauk County, Wisconsin, includes ways for the public to interact with both artists and farmers.

## RESEARCH

*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 of the National Endowment for the Arts with the U.S. Census Bureau. The report notes that in 2017, the most popular form of attendance in the performing arts was outdoor performing arts festivals, with 58.5 million people in the audience.

*Live from Your Neighborhood: A National Study of Outdoor Arts Festivals* (2010) examines the range and variety of arts festivals in the U.S., the artists they employ, the communities they serve, and the roles they play in our cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

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

