

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 Arts Endowment is the only funder, public or private, that provides 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' FY2020 appropriation of \$162.5 million constitutes approximately .003 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 National Endowment for the Arts 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 Arts Endowment's funding categories.
- National Endowment for the Arts 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.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT

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

- The Arts Endowment recommends on average 2,400 grants in every Congressional District in the country.

The majority of grants go to small and medium sized organizations (budgets less than \$2 million) which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.

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

- 42% of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 35% of grants reach low-income audiences of underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.

PARTNERSHIPS

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

- Examples include: Creative Forces, Poetry Out Loud, Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, NEA Big Read, Blue Star Museums, and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.

For more information and stories about the impact of National Endowment for the Arts grants and programs on U.S. communities, please visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

