

Research into the value and impact of the arts is a core function of the National Endowment for the Arts. Through accurate, relevant, and timely analyses and reports, the National Endowment for the Arts reveals the conditions and characteristics of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts on our everyday lives.

A sample of Office of Research & Analysis' recent publications

- ***Creativity Connects: Trends and Conditions Affecting U.S. Artists***
- ***A Decade of Arts Engagement: Highlights from the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, 2002-2012***
- ***When Going Gets Tough: Barriers and Motivations Affecting Arts Attendance***
- ***How Creativity Works in the Brain***
- ***The Arts and Aging - Building the Science***
- ***How the United States Funds the Arts***
- ***The Arts in Early Childhood***

ADVANCING LEARNING

The National Endowment for the Arts is the national agency of record for arts-related research.

- The Office of Research & Analysis' (ORA) quadrennial *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts* is the most comprehensive survey of U.S. arts participation with a nationally representative sample exceeding 35,000 adults.
- In addition to participation in the arts, the ORA is well regarded for its reports on artists such as *Artists in the Workforce* and arts industries such as *Valuing the Art of Industrial Design*.
- The ORA maintains a series of arts data profiles that aggregates data from different sources to provide a resource on topics such as [state-level estimates of arts participation among adults](#) and [participation patterns of adults with disabilities](#)

The ORA works closely with other agency offices to provide information and improve internal operations.

- The ORA produces reports regarding the NEA's performance that are publically available on the NEA's website.
- The ORA produces internal reports for individual NEA programs, providing insight on the distribution of grants to varying population groups.
- The ORA produces fact sheets and maps for the NEA's Congressional Affairs staff to provide to Members of Congress.



FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts spearheads partnerships with other federal agencies to investigate areas of common interest.

- In 2013, the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis created a first-ever satellite account to measure arts and cultural contributions to the gross domestic product.
- Among the findings is that arts and cultural activities contributed \$698 billion to our economy in 2012 (4.32% of GDP), more than construction (\$586.7B) or transportation and warehousing (\$464.1B).
- In September 2012, the NEA teamed with the National Institutes of Health to sponsor a National Academies workshop titled Research Gaps and Opportunities for Exploring the Relationship of the Arts to Health and Well-Being in Older Adults
- The National Academies workshop led to publication of *The Arts and Aging: Building the Science*.
- Beginning in 2011, the NEA has convened a Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development to encourage more and better research on how the arts can help people reach their full potential at all stages of life.

- In December 2015, the NEA's Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development published *The Arts in Early Childhood*, a literature review and gap-analysis from findings in 18 reports in psychology and research journals.
- In July 2016, the NEA and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency released *Arts-Based Programs and Arts Therapies for At-Risk, Justice-Involved, and Traumatized Youths*.

The National Endowment for the Arts convenes individuals and organizations around issues of national importance and publishes summary reports.

- A June 2014 symposium held in partnership with the UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council brought together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world to investigate the challenges of measuring cultural engagement.
- In July 2014, the NEA co-convened a meeting with the Santa Fe Institute that assembled researchers and artists to explore creativity and the brain.
- In July 2015, the NEA published *How Creativity Works in the Brain* that summarizes themes emerging from psychological and neurobiological studies of creativity.

BUILDING THE FIELD

Since 2012, the ORA has managed the Research: Art Works grant category to support research projects that build evidence on the value and impact of the arts.

- Since the program's beginning, ORA has awarded \$1.55 million to fund 88 research projects.
- The ORA posts on its section of the NEA website the final reports of its funded projects so that anyone can access the reports' findings.
- Among the funded projects are: *The Location Patterns of Artistic Clusters: A Metro- and Neighborhood-Level Analysis*; *Our Voices Count: The Potential Impact of Strength-Based Music Programs in Juvenile Justice Settings*; and *Using New Metrics to Assess the Role of the Arts in Well-Being*.

- ORA regularly showcases the work of NEA grantees at national research conferences, in ORA webinars, in the monthly "Taking Note" post on the NEA's Art Works blog, and in other convenings.
- The NEA Research Labs program supports a series of transdisciplinary research partnerships, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to produce and report empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.

