

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the independent federal agency that works to give people across America the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts. The NEA 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.

VIRGINIA

Nationwide, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the arts. Thanks to historic investments, the NEA is helping the arts and cultural sector to recover, rebuild, and reopen. In 2020:

- Arts and cultural production in Virginia added **2.9%** or **\$16.2 billion** to the state's economy.
- Virginia's arts and cultural industries employed **109,962** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **\$8.7 billion**.

GRANTS TO THE STATE

Over a five-year period (FY 2018-2022), the NEA distributed \$15,161,689 in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.

The Arts Endowment awarded **220** direct grants throughout Virginia over the past 5 years, totaling **\$11,752,504**. These direct grants included:

- An arts program that enhances the mental health of military service members and veterans through art experiences and classes
- Capital Kids BookFest, a free one-day festival celebrating literature, promoting literacy, and strengthening families through reading
- Free after-school arts programming for teens from underserved communities

NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE STATE

In addition to offering direct grants, the NEA supports national initiatives benefiting people across the country. Over the past five years:

Blue Star Museums program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **122** participating museums in Virginia.

Poetry Out Loud program provided opportunities for an average of **5,484** students per year attending **124** unique high schools in Virginia to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation— great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **425** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **29,406** adults and students in Virginia.

