NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

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MONTANA

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.

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 2022:

- Arts and cultural production in Montana added **3.3%** or **$2.2 billion** to the state's economy.
- Montana's arts and cultural industries employed **16,540** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **$1.2 billion**.

GRANTS TO THE STATE

Over a five-year period (FY 2019-2023), the NEA distributed $11,476,395 in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.

The Arts Endowment awarded **92** direct grants throughout Montana over the past 5 years, totaling **$8,463,374**. These direct grants included:

- Symphony performances and educational outreach in honor of Black History Month and the 60th anniversary of the founding of Motown Records
- The Big Sky DocShop conference
- The expansion of MAPS Media Institute's media arts education programs, focused on students from underserved communities in rural Montana

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 **31** participating museums in Montana.

Poetry Out Loud program provided opportunities for an average of **2,016** students per year attending **111** unique high schools in Montana to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation— great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **286** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **10,069** adults and students in Montana.