

State and regional arts organizations have a shared constituency with the National Endowment for the Arts and shared priorities for ensuring that every community in the nation enjoys the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits that stem from engaging in the arts.

**NEA funding through state and regional partnerships agreements in 2015**

**\$48 million**

## EXTENDING PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN ARTS AND CULTURE

By designating 40 percent of its grant-making funds to the state and regional arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts leverages state government support as well as additional public and private investment in the arts.

- The NEA's partnership agreement grant to the states must be matched 1:1 by state government funds while regional arts organizations match their grant with public and private support.
- Over the past few years, every dollar invested in the states through the NEA's partnership agreements has been matched by up to nine dollars of state appropriations.
- This level of investment enables the federal, state, and regional partners to collectively reach every community in the nation.

## STRENGTHENING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

The National Endowment for the Arts' investment in state and regional arts organizations helps to bolster a strong arts and culture ecosystem in United States.

- The NEA requires that state and regional arts organizations engage in planning processes that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of their diverse constituencies, including nonprofit arts organizations, creative enterprises, community and social service organizations, private institutions, artists, and educators.
- These NEA-required plans, developed through constituent outreach, guide the states' and regions' investments in grantmaking, professional development, capacity-building, programming, and education.
- The NEA also designates that states must allocate a portion of their federal grant to strengthening arts education and serving underserved populations; two areas of mutual interest.



## INFORMING CULTURAL POLICY

The National Endowment for the Arts' shared program priorities with state and regional arts organizations inform policy development at the national, regional, state and local levels.

- Together, the NEA and the states and regions share priorities such as enhancing arts education, reaching underserved communities, promoting economic and community development through the arts, growing the creative sector, and increasing participation in the arts for all Americans.
- The NEA's support of folk and traditional arts seeded the national network of folk arts coordinators in state and regional arts organizations and allows them to promote cultural traditions through field work.
- The NEA supports the national network of arts education coordinators at the state level including supporting an annual professional development institute.

The NEA partners with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies to collect and analyze information including grants awarded and performance measurements, inform arts policy, and offer professional development at the state, regional, and national levels.



## PARTNERING ON NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES

The National Endowment for the Arts' partnership with the state and regional arts organizations extends far beyond a grantor/grantee relationship to include shaping and implementing national initiatives that benefit the agency and audiences nationwide.

- Since 2005, the state arts agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico have partnered with the NEA and the Poetry Foundation on Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest for high school students. Through the recruitment efforts of the state and territorial partners, Poetry Out Loud engages approximately 345,000 students annually. Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation helps coordinate the national finals.
- Arts Midwest serves as the NEA's partner in implementing the Big Read, a community-wide reading initiative. In the 2015-2016 cycle, seventy-five organizations in 31 states will conduct Big Read activities focused on 26 books.
- Arts Midwest also implements Shakespeare in American Communities, a Shakespeare touring and education program which will feature more than 1,000 performances and over 330 educational activities during the 2015-2016 season.
- Together the six regional arts organizations implement Performing Arts Discovery, a pilot program to create opportunities for international performing arts curators to connect with US artists for touring in foreign countries.

