

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

The National Endowment for the Arts is the only funder, public or private, to support the arts in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The agency awards more than \$120 million annually with each grant dollar matched by up to nine dollars from other funding sources.

STATE ARTS AGENCIES & REGIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Every U.S. state and jurisdiction has its own state arts agency (SAA) that coordinates cultural policies and manages arts programming on behalf of, or as part of, state/jurisdiction government. The state arts agencies—and the geographically-defined consortium of state arts agencies known as regional arts organizations—are critical partners of the National Endowment for the Arts, greatly extending federal reach and impact and translating national leadership into local benefit.

FUNDING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS STATE & REGIONAL PROGRAM

Partnership agreements awarded, 2018:

\$50.4 million

Each year, the National Endowment for the Arts designates 40 percent of its grant-making budget to the state and regional arts organizations through partnership agreements. The state arts agencies must match the federal dollars in the partnership agreement 1:1 with state government funds while regional arts organizations match their funding with public and private support. Partnership agreement funding enables the SAAs to address priorities identified at the state level as well as National Endowment for the Arts objectives such as the creation of art and public engagement with art.

BUILDING THE ARTS FIELD AND THE FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONSHIP

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 Arts Endowment requires that state and regional arts organizations engage in planning that is 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 required plans guide the states’ and regions’ investments in grantmaking, professional and organizational development, programming, and education.
- The agency also requires that states allocate a portion of their award to strengthening arts education and serving underserved populations; two areas of mutual interest.



PROVIDING EMERGENCY FUNDING & DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

The state and regional arts agencies are key to assessing needs of artists and arts organization in their state or territory that have suffered losses due to natural disasters. Through these organizations, the Arts Endowment makes available critical emergency funds to those in need. In addition to helping communities recover from hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, the Arts Endowment offers expertise. In fiscal year 2018, the Arts Endowment distributed \$649.8 million to several states, territories, and regions. Work is ongoing to assist Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in rebuilding after Hurricane Maria.

MANAGING 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 audiences nationwide. These include;

- Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network partners with nine state arts agencies that have one of the 11 Creative Forces clinical sites within their borders.
- Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest for high school students involves all of the state and jurisdictional arts agencies as well as Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation that helps coordinate the national finals in Washington DC.
- US Artists International supports American performing artists to attend international festivals and is managed by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.
- NEA Big Read—that broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book—and Shakespeare in American Communities— bringing professional theater companies to middle and high schools to perform Shakespeare's plays and conduct educational activities—are both managed by Arts Midwest.

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 Arts Endowment 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 Arts Endowment'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 agency supports the national network of arts education coordinators at the state level including funding an annual professional development institute.
- The agency 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.

For more information on the states and regionals at the NEA, go to [arts.gov/artistic-fields/state-regional](https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/state-regional). For more information on the NEA and its programs, go to [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov). The NEA is on Twitter @NEAarts as well as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and iTunes.

