

The National Endowment for the Arts offers grants to the nonprofit theater and musical theater fields for the production or presentation of traditional or classical repertoire, new plays and musicals, development laboratories, showcases, artist residencies, work for young audiences, experimental work, community-based work, outdoor historical dramas, and puppetry. In 2016, the NEA received a Tony Award for its “unwavering commitment in paving the road” between Broadway and cities throughout the U.S.

Funding through the theater and musical theater programs, 1966-2016:

**\$335.5 million**

### ADVANCING LEARNING

National Endowment for the Arts funding supports professional development for theater artists and administrators.

- Over the last 10 years, the NEA awarded more than \$3.3 million to support conferences and professional development for theater professionals, including funding for the Theatre Communications Group annual conference.
- NEA funding supports theater artists such as playwrights, directors, designers, actors, composers, and lyricists programs, including workshops, readings, and festivals that challenge and advance their craft: for example, the Lark Theatre Company and its Open Access Program (New York City).

The National Endowment for the Arts supports programs that teach young people about playwriting, directing, and acting, providing them with learning opportunities that can lead to a professional career and greater life skills.

- The NEA supports student attendance at performances.
- The NEA supports learning opportunities for young people such as playwriting labs and writing workshops.
- The NEA has supported professional company tours to schools and teaching artists working in schools since the agency's first year of operations when it awarded \$330,000 for the Laboratory Theatre Projects to “provide two American cities with professional theatre companies which will present outstanding theatre performances at no charge to secondary school children.”

### FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts makes a significant investment in the creation of new plays and musicals, supporting American theater artists and expanding the theater and musical theater repertoire.

- Over the last 10 years, the NEA has awarded more than \$13.9 million to develop new plays.
- The NEA supports new work from playwrights, stage designers, lyricists, and composers.

- Theater festivals are an important source of new plays and the NEA supports a variety of festivals, including the Festival of New Musicals, the Humana Festival of New American Plays, Pacific Playwrights Festival, and New York Stage and Film's Powerhouse Season.



## FUELING CREATIVITY (continued)

National Endowment for the Arts-supported plays and musicals have transferred to Broadway, extending the life and commercial success of new work and connecting with wider audiences.

- New NEA-supported plays from Chicago's Steppenwolf (*August: Osage County*), Vassar Reading Festival (*Hamilton*), Arena Stage (*Next to Normal*) and Roundabout Theatre Company (*The Humans*) have gone on to win national awards; *August Osage County*, 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *Hamilton*, 11 Tony Awards and 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *Next to Normal*, 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *The Humans*,

2016 Tony Award for Best Play.

- In all, NEA-supported plays and musicals have received 102 nominations and 35 wins for the Tony Award for Best Play and Best Musical.
- The NEA funds rolling world premieres, helping playwrights and creative teams benefit from continued development and premiere opportunities for new plays.

## CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

The National Endowment for the Arts has supported a significant number of performances by theater companies, festivals, presenters, and university programs.

- In the last 10 years, the NEA has awarded more than \$33.8 million to support theater performances.
- The NEA funds theater performances in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Since 2004, the NEA has supported Shakespeare in American Communities, engaging audiences through 10,300 performances and more than 36,000 related educational activities at 9,100 schools in 3,900 communities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The NEA supports the growth and development of America's indigenous art form, musical theater, through direct grants for productions of new and classic musicals, as well as support for the National Alliance for Musical Theater.

The National Endowment for the Arts is committed to bringing theater to as many people as possible, especially audiences that are in geographically isolated places.

- The NEA has funded theater tours since 1966 when it awarded a \$75,000 grant to the National Repertory Theatre to tour classic plays, including student performances.
- The NEA supports theaters to tour to underserved communities across the United States, including Montana Shakespeare in the Park in Bozeman, MT; Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, KY; and Figure of Speech Theatre in Freeport, ME.

## BUILDING THE FIELD

The National Endowment for the Arts was directly responsible for the growth of the national infrastructure of American non-profit theater, launching organizations and strengthening networks that together created the cross-national landscape of theater that Americans enjoy today.

- Throughout its history, the NEA has seeded new theater companies outside of major cities, expanding theater activity across the country.

- In the NEA's first year of grantmaking, nearly all new plays that reached a wide audience originated on the commercial stage and then spread to other, nonprofit theaters. Ten years later, most new work was generated by nonprofit theater institutions as a result of the NEA's field-development efforts.

