

The National Endowment for the Arts is committed to supporting visual arts activity—painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, drawing, craft, and public art—that demonstrates exceptional aesthetic investigation and meaningful community engagement.

**Funding through the  
visual arts program,  
1966-2015:**

**\$161.2 million**

### ADVANCING LEARNING

National Endowment for the Arts-funded visual arts organizations offer a wide array of public programs.

- The visual arts encompass a variety of mediums, making them accessible to a wide range of audiences.
- According to the NEA's *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, visual arts is the second most commonly studied art form, after music, with nearly one-fifth of all American adults having taken visual art classes at some point in their lifetime.
- In the NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership, the medical protocol for troops suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues includes mask-making classes.

- Through lectures, artists often raise critical issues facing society, helping initiate dialogue about contemporary concerns.

National Endowment for the Arts funding supports professional development for art teachers to enhance their skills and for non-arts teachers to incorporate visual arts into the curriculum.

- Programs offered by visual arts organizations provide flexible and focused means for teachers to gain high quality arts instruction.
- NEA-funded visual arts exhibitions can include resources for teachers to bring the insights offered by an exhibition into the classroom.

### FUELING CREATIVITY

The National Endowment for the Arts makes a significant investment in the creation of new work.

- Through support of the visual arts, the NEA funds innovative arts/science and arts/technology projects.
- Visual arts fellowships were awarded to approximately 5,000 artists between 1966 and 1995, giving key support to artists often early in their careers, support that continues today through project grants.
- In the past 10 years, the NEA awarded \$9.8 million to support programs that give artists the time, space, and resources to create.

The National Endowment for the Arts is one of the key funders of public art commissions.

- Through its support of public art commissions, the NEA collaborates with municipal agencies and departments, arts and cultural organizations, artists, and community residents.
- Public art is a key activity for creative placemaking projects, helping to bring the arts to the center of community development conversations.



## CONNECTING AND CELEBRATING

The National Endowment for the Arts has supported thousands of exhibitions.

- In the past 10 years, the NEA has awarded \$6 million to support visual arts exhibitions.
- In addition to visual art organizations, exhibitions have been funded at health care facilities, local development corporations, community colleges, historic estates, school districts, and a city parking authority.
- The NEA funded Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL for light-based installations on the inpatient care floor where children with infectious diseases and cystic fibrosis are treated.

The National Endowment for the Arts works to assure the greatest access to the visual arts by supporting innovative programs such as mobile art studios and digital programming.

- Mobile art programs include the Art Mobile of Montana's travelling exhibition of works by the state's visual artists, including many Native American artists.
- Discussion platforms and mobile apps give the public new ways to engage with art work.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports art documentation, restoration, and conservation.

- NEA funding helps visual arts organizations care for their collections, including creating online digital archives that are widely accessible.
- NEA funding helps artists care for their own work, including the National Center for Creative Aging Art Cart, where graduate students work with older artists to prepare, preserve, and document each artist's life's work.
- NEA funding helped restore artwork such as WPA-era murals in Cedar Rapids, IA and Mobridge, SD.

The National Endowment for the Arts makes a significant investment in visual arts publications in print and online, providing learning resources for audiences of all ages.

- Over the past 10 years, the NEA has awarded more than \$1.2 million to support visual arts magazines and journals, including *Sculpture* magazine, *Public Art Review* and *Nueva Luz*, a bilingual photography journal.

## BUILDING THE FIELD

The National Endowment for the Arts visual arts category works with a spectrum of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, including those that are not focused primarily on the arts.

- Through visual arts, the NEA supports endeavors dedicated to socially relevant public art projects such as Project Row Houses in Houston, TX, a community-based art and housing collaboration.

- Through visual arts, the NEA supports projects dedicated to environmental issues such as Michael Singer's project for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners in Florida that regenerated a stretch of shoreline.

