

NEA and Federal Partnerships



The National Endowment for the Arts is the federal agency that supports and funds the arts to give all Americans the opportunity to experience creativity and participate in the arts.

The NEA works with other federal agencies to leverage investments in communities, using the arts as a platform for enhancing the quality of life for all. By bringing the arts to the table in new and innovative ways, the NEA is able to help advance work in areas from healthcare to community development.

Department of Agriculture participates in the NEA's [Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#) that works with communities of 50,000 or less population and offers annual competitive funding to host a two-and-a-half day community design workshop.

Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis worked with the NEA to create a [first-ever satellite account](#) to measure arts and cultural contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP). Arts and cultural activities contributed \$698 billion to our economy in 2012 (4.32% of GDP).

Department of Defense participates in the [NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership](#). Established in 2011, this partnership explores how creative arts therapy and arts engagement can improve health and well-being in military healthcare settings. A successful writing and music therapy pilot program at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, which includes the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), has been replicated at the Intrepid Spirit One NICoE Satellite at Fort Belvoir, VA.

Department of Defense participates in [Blue Star Museums](#) with Blue Star Families and more than 2,000 museums nationwide. Since 2010, the program has offered free museum admission to active duty military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Department of Education participates in the [Arts Education Partnership \(AEP\)](#), a collaboration that also includes the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. AEP convenes forums and publishes research on the role of arts education in schools.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): The NEA is among the federal partners for HUD's [Promise Zones initiative](#). NEA staff work with interagency teams and local communities to leverage place-based investments in order to better integrate arts and culture stakeholders into community revitalization strategies.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the NEA co-funded a 2010 summit resulting in "[Strategies for Arts+Science +Technology Research](#)" that examined how the arts, sciences and technology can overcome decades of diverging interests and practices. The NEA, NSF, and the National Endowment for the Humanities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue investigating ways to support research and practice at the intersections of their fields.

The White House's [Strong Cities, Strong Communities \(SC2\)](#) is an initiative that the NEA has supported since its launch in 2011. NEA staff provide support to the SC2 Council and technical assistance to SC2 cities. The NEA also has a formal role with the President's Domestic Policy Council on the Rural and Urban Affairs Councils' Working Groups.

The [NEA Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development](#) was created in response to a white paper calling for more and better research on how the arts can help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. Task force members represent 19 federal agencies. The group holds public webinars and scholarly convenings. Outcomes include research on the [arts and older adults](#).