

**The NEA 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 is also the federal agency of record on arts research, examining the value and impact of the arts in American life. For nearly 40 years, the NEA Office of Research & Analysis has produced research publications, conferences, and data sources on arts-related topics of interest to policy-makers, educators, journalists, cultural researchers and practitioners, and the general public.

Many of these products emerged in collaboration with other federal agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In recent years, the NEA launched a research funding opportunity to support research that also investigates the value and/or impact of the arts.

### **Recent NEA research looks at:**

**The arts and the economy:** The NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis created 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)**, more than construction (\$586.7B) or transportation and warehousing (\$464.1B).

**Motivations and barriers to attending the arts:** The NEA partnered with the General Social Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau to ask why people attend arts events (specifically music, dance, theater, and visual arts). The resulting report, [When Going Gets Tough: Barriers and Motivations Affecting Arts Attendance](#), looks beyond demographics to discover the attitudes, motivations, and barriers for attending the arts at different life stages—the first time the NEA has published a report on this type of data.

**How Americans participate in the arts:** The [Survey of Public Participation in the Arts](#) (SPPA) is the largest and most comprehensive survey of U.S. arts participation, with a total sample size exceeding 37,000 adults, ages 18 and over. The latest SPPA compares arts participation rates based on surveys from 2002, 2008, and 2012, as well as regional, state, and metro-area statistics.

**The arts and aging:** The NEA, National Institutes of Health, and National Academy of Sciences co-hosted a 2012 symposium on the topic, and published [The Arts and Aging: Building the Science](#).

### **NEA Research Grants**

In 2012, the NEA launched the Research: Art Works grant category to support research projects that build evidence on the value and impact of the arts, and foster partnerships and information-sharing among researchers. [Final reports from previous research grants](#) are available on arts.gov.

### **NEA Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development**

In response to a white paper jointly issued with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the NEA convened an [Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development](#) to encourage more and better research on how the arts can help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. The Task Force includes members from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and others. The group shares ideas and information, holds public webinars and academic workshops on compelling research and practices. [Archived webinars](#) can be found at arts.gov.