Nationwide, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the arts. Thanks to historic investments, the NEA is helping the arts and cultural sector to recover, rebuild, and reopen. In 2020:

- Arts and cultural production in Georgia added **3.8%** or **$23.8 billion** to the state’s economy.
- Georgia’s arts and cultural industries employed **134,217** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **$11.4 billion**.

**GRANTS TO THE STATE**

Over a five-year period (FY 2017-2021), the NEA distributed **$23,568,080** in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.

The Arts Endowment awarded **218** direct grants throughout Georgia over the past 5 years, totaling **$20,587,818**. These direct grants included:

- The annual Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival in Blairsville
- Support for Jerry’s Habima Theatre, a musical theater program for adults with disabilities
- The world premiere of “Hands of Color”, a play by Kimberly Monks at Synchrocity Theatre

**NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE STATE**

In addition to offering direct grants, the NEA supports national initiatives benefiting people across the country.

**Blue Star Museums** program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **72** participating museums in Georgia.

**Poetry Out Loud** program provided opportunities for an average of **9,825** students per year attending **226** unique high schools in Georgia to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation—great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **645** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **45,500** adults and students in Georgia.