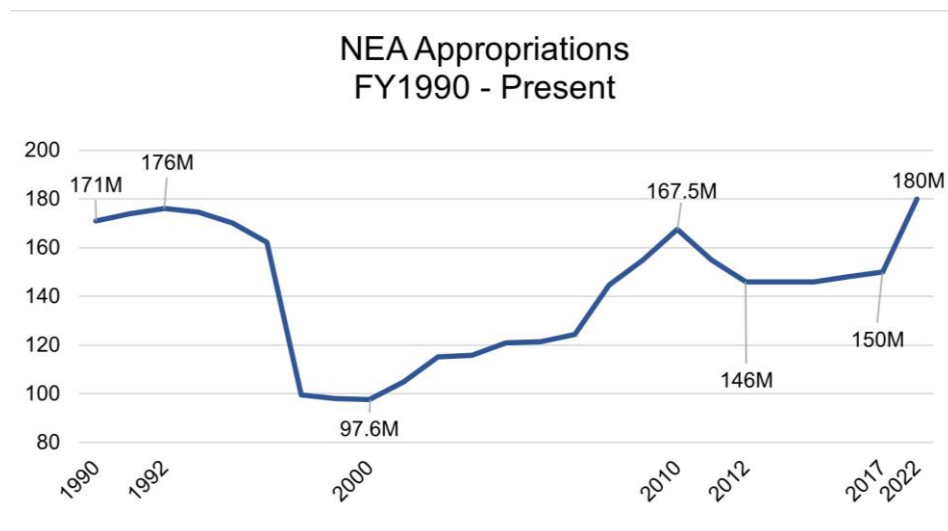


NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA): PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- Continue bipartisan support and fund the National Endowment for the Arts in the FY2023 Interior Appropriations bill at no less than \$203.55 million to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.
- We encourage the Subcommittee to build a specific path to index funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities at \$1 per capita. Each agency is currently funded at about 54 cents per capita. We also encourage continued parity between NEA and NEH funding.
- Support the recovery of the arts sector by allowing the NEA to provide general operating support funding as the sector recovers from the Omicron variant to COVID-19.



THE NEA: AMERICA'S LEAD SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) plays a unique role in broadening access to and participation in the arts in every congressional district and should be more fully supported in order to expand and deepen its impact on our communities and our democracy.

- The arts sector is an economic engine and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this nation will need the arts and culture sector to deliver on its unique mission to uplift,

engage, educate, and innovate. The NEA can help leverage the arts sector to play a key role in the work to imagine and build a new American economy.

- The Endowment's goals are fulfilled through awarding 60 percent of its grantmaking budget in direct grants — reviewed and recommended by panels of experts — to arts organizations across the country. These grants signal artistic achievement and recognition.

Key facts about the NEA:

- It awards 40 percent of its grantmaking budget directly to the states through state and regional arts agencies, an extraordinary example of federal/state partnership, extending the NEA's reach further to millions of people in thousands of communities.
- It annually recommends, on average, 2,300 grants across every congressional district in the country. The majority of grants go to small and medium-sized organizations (budgets less than \$2 million) and support projects that increase audience access to arts programming.
- It recognizes outstanding achievement in the arts through Jazz Masters Fellowships, National Heritage Fellowships, and National Medal of Arts, and creative artists are also supported through Literature Fellowships.
- 43 percent of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 35 percent of grants reach low-income audiences of under-resourced populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
- Approximately 4,500 communities are served each year through NEA grants. In the years prior to the pandemic, around 45 million Americans attended a live arts event supported by the NEA, including approximately 39,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and 6,000 exhibitions.
- In 2021, the NEA managed a recovery fund of \$135 million provided through the American Rescue Plan Act. The grantmaking process showed that the need was far greater than even this enhanced allocation. After funding the first \$52 million (40 percent) to the state arts agencies per a partnership agreement and a special grant recovery initiative of \$20.2 million to 66 local arts agencies to regrant funds to help reach the most underserved arts organizations, the NEA awarded \$57.75 million to 567 arts organizations to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. It is important to note that for these direct grants, the NEA received more than 7,500 eligible applications requesting \$695 million of total assistance.

BROADENS ACCESS AND EQUITY

- The arts sector is a powerful conduit for bridging and healing deep divisions. The NEA can help redress systemic injustice — including long-time inequities in arts funding, as well as a lack of appreciation for creativity from all cultures.

- The NEA is establishing and cultivating ongoing relationships with historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), building capacity for successful applications, and has made recent grants to HBCUs, including Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, and Southern University at New Orleans.
- The Challenge America funding category specifically offers support for projects that expand arts access to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, economics, or disability.
- The NEA's role is to make sure all Americans have access to the arts no matter where they live. Among the NEA's accomplishments is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that have been under-resourced, especially in rural and inner-city communities. In many communities, NEA grants support free and reduced-price performances. A significant percentage of grants benefit those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts.

PROVIDES A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar will approach 9:1, far surpassing the required non-federal match of at least 1:1. This generated more than \$500 million in matching support and illustrates why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product. In 2020, arts and culture added **\$876.7 billion, or 4.2 percent**, to the national GDP. Between 2019 and 2020, the U.S. arts economy shrank at nearly twice the rate of the economy as a whole: Arts and cultural production fell by 6.4 percent when adjusted for inflation, compared with a 3.4 decline in the overall economy. While the size and diversity of the arts and culture sector helped it to remain a major contributor to the economy, certain arts industries saw enormous declines. This data suggests that the recovery of communities is tied to the recovery of the arts and culture sector.

SUPPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

- The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts. It also supports educational programs for adults, collaborations between state arts agencies and state education agencies, and partnerships between arts institutions and K-12 and college and university educators.
- The NEA supports military families through its Creative Forces program, a collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to serve the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This summer, the Creative Forces initiative will announce the first recipients of a new grant program to fund arts-based programs, specifically for active military members, veterans,

and family/caregivers. Arts organizations across the country applied by December 2021 for activities in 2022.

BACKGROUND

The NEA's FY2022 budget is \$180 million, just 0.004% of the federal budget and 54 cents per capita. Last year, the NEA's budget was proposed at \$201 million in the Biden administration's first budget request. The U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, full Appropriations Committee, and floor passage included the \$201 million level, while the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee draft bill recommended \$182.5 million. The administration's FY2023 budget request for the NEA is \$203.55 million.