

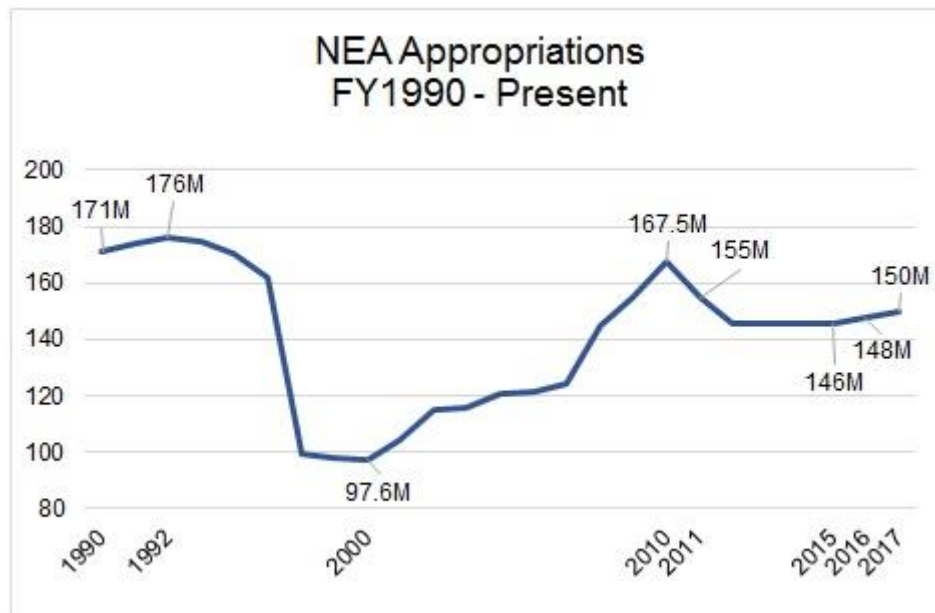
THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER AMERICA

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

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- Continue bipartisan support with a budget of \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2019 Interior Appropriations bill to help preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.



THE NEA: AMERICA'S LEAD SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS

The NEA's mission is to *strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation*. As stated in the Enabling Legislation for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, "*The Arts . . . belong to all the people of the United States.*"

The NEA supports artistically excellent projects that: celebrate America's creativity and cultural heritage; invite a dialogue that fosters a mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all persons and groups; and enrich our humanity by broadening our understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a society. The NEA is America's chief supporter of the arts and celebrates the arts as a national priority. The arts have the power to transport audiences, unite communities, promote empathy and understanding, and humanize difference.

The Endowment's goals are fulfilled primarily through direct grants, reviewed and recommended by panels of experts, to arts organizations across the country. Between 2012 and 2015 on average, NEA grants:

- Reached 24.2 million adults and 3.4 million children each year attending live arts events through NEA-supported programs. These 80,603 live events included performances, lectures, festivals and exhibitions.

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- Reached more than 51 million individuals engaged with the arts through technology in NEA-funded projects.
- Impacted almost 16,000 communities engaged in NEA-supported projects, many benefiting from touring and outreach initiatives.

THE VALUE OF A FEDERAL ROLE FOR THE ARTS:

SUPPORTS PARTNERSHIPS THAT SERVE IMPORTANT COMMUNITIES

- 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 (PTSD). In FY 2016 and 2017 each, Congress appropriated a nearly \$2 million increase specifically to expand this military healing arts program. The NEA also partners with Blue Star Families to present Blue Star Museums, which offers free admission to active-duty military and their families, and Blue Star Theatres, which offers free and discounted tickets to active-duty military and veterans and their families, along with access to education programs and special events for military families.
- 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/university educators.

PROVIDES A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The NEA's budget is \$150 million (under a Continuing Resolution for FY18) — just 0.004 percent of the federal budget and 47 cents per capita.
- 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 one to one. This generated more than \$500 million in matching support and illustrates why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- The nonprofit arts industry supports 4.13 million jobs in the arts and related industries. The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product at 4.2 percent, which amounts to an impressive \$729 billion.

BROADENS ACCESS TO ALL

- The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Every congressional district benefits from an NEA grant.
- The NEA funds nonprofits throughout the country and has an exemplary partnership with the states, with 40 percent of program funds distributed through state arts agencies. This federal-state partnership supports tens of thousands of grants in communities all throughout the U.S.
- The **Challenge America** category specifically offers support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, economics, or disability.
- 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/university educators.
- NEA grants are awarded through national initiatives, including **Art Works** which supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art,

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lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The NEA **Our Town** grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core.