

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States.

BUDGET & GRANTMAKING

The Arts Endowment awards grants for projects to nonprofit organizations nationwide, as well as supports fellowships for American writers and translators of world literature, and honorifics in jazz and the folk and traditional arts. The grant review process is rigorous:

- Peer-review by citizen experts and laypersons from around the country
- Review by National Council on the Arts, the agency's advisory body
- Final review and award decisions by Arts Endowment chair

40 percent of the NEA's grantmaking budget is awarded directly to the states through their state and regional arts agencies, reaching millions more people in thousands of communities. The Arts Endowment requires that a portion of every state and regional partnership grant be allocated to programs reaching underserved communities.

The National Endowment for the Arts' FY 2022 appropriation of \$180 million constitutes about .003 percent of the federal budget. Approximately 80 percent of the appropriation is distributed as grants and awards to organizations and individuals across the country.

Arts Endowment grant awards require a dollar-to-dollar match, ensuring that NEA funds help to leverage many more public and private investments in the arts.

PARTNERSHIPS

Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations partner with the Arts Endowment on national initiatives, using the arts as a platform for enhancing the quality of life for all.

- Examples include: Creative Forces, Poetry Out Loud, Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, NEA Big Read, Blue Star Museums, and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND IMPACT

The Arts Endowment is fully committed to ensuring that people in communities nationwide have access and opportunity to engage with the arts:

- The NEA recommends on average 2,300 grants per year, reaching every Congressional District in the country.

The majority of grants (more than 60 percent) go to small and medium sized organizations (budgets up to \$2 million), which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.

A significant percentage of grants go to those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts:

- 35 percent of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 35 percent of grants reach low-income audiences or underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.

Just as Americans are diverse in their backgrounds, so are their communities. The National Endowment for the Arts ensures that the arts thrive across the nation, including small and rural towns:

- 11 percent of NEA-funded projects take place in rural communities, with rural communities making up 13.6 percent of the U.S. population.
- 7.2 percent of NEA-funded projects take place in small, metropolitan communities, with small, metropolitan communities making up 8.8 percent of the U.S. population.

Approximately 4,000 communities are served each year through NEA grants. Around 41 million Americans attend a live arts event supported by the NEA, including approximately 36,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and 6,000 exhibitions.

RESEARCH

The Arts Endowment is the national agency of record for arts-related research. Through its Office of Research & Analysis, the agency generates reports and analysis that reveal the characteristics of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts on our everyday lives. In addition to conducting research, the Arts Endowment funds research through Research Grants in the Arts and NEA Research Labs.

For more about the impact of National Endowment for the Arts grants and programs on U.S. communities, please visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

The agency also presents stories about artists, arts organizations, and arts events all over the country through our [blog](#), [weekly audio podcast interviews](#), and [magazine](#).