

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

*Promoting Creativity and Public Access to the Arts*

Grants awarded to orchestras by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and support provided to orchestras through NEA funds administered by state arts agencies, provide critical funding for projects that increase access to music in communities nationwide. NEA funding both directly supports local projects and also spurs giving from other sources like private foundations, corporations, and individual contributors.

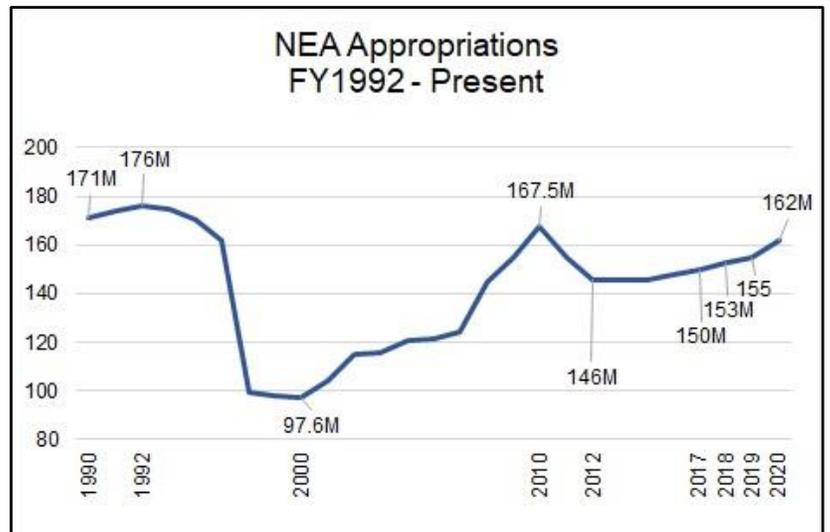
### ACTION NEEDED

**Continue bipartisan support with a budget of \$170 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2021 Interior Appropriations bill 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.**

### 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.*

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 public 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 2016 on average, NEA grants:

- Reached 42.8 million adults and 8.3 million children per year attending live arts events through NEA-supported programs. These 92,790 live events included performances, lectures, festivals, and exhibitions.
- Engaged more than 61 million individuals with the arts through the Internet and more than 27 million through mobile applications in NEA-funded projects.
- Impacted more than 16,000 communities engaged in NEA-supported projects, many benefiting from touring and outreach initiatives.
- Awarded 40 percent of its grantmaking budget directly to the states through their state and regional arts agencies, extending the NEA's reach further to millions of people in thousands of communities.

The goals of the agency include the creation of art meeting the highest standards of excellence, engaging the public, and promoting public knowledge and understanding about the contributions of the arts in our national life and public discourse. Furthermore, the agency conducts essential research about trends relating to arts participation. In addition, in 2013, the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the NEA developed an "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" to calculate the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP).

## **The NEA 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. In FY 2019, the NEA made [100 direct grants to orchestras](#) through the Grants for Arts Projects categories, totaling \$2,212,500, which supports arts education for children and adults, expands public access to performances, and nurtures the creative endeavors of contemporary classical musicians, composers, and conductors.
- The Challenge America funding 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'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 underserved, especially in rural and inner-city communities. In many communities, NEA grants support free performances, as well as reduced ticket prices for those who cannot afford to buy a ticket. A significant percentage of grants benefit those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts. According to the NEA's [FAQ Facts & Figures](#):
  - 65% of NEA grants go to small and medium sized budget organizations, which tend to support projects that benefit audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming.
  - 40% of NEA-supported activities take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
  - 36% of NEA grants go to organizations that reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
  - More than half of NEA-funded art events take place in locations where the median household income is less than \$50,000.

## **The NEA 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 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 \$763 billion.

## **The NEA supports partnerships that advance the arts and communities**

- The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts. Arts education in school and participation in arts lessons are the most significant predictors of arts participation later in life. NEA-funded projects provide participatory learning and engage students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art. It also supports a wide range of projects, including 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

## **BACKGROUND**

A healthy arts infrastructure is critical to the economic vitality of state and local communities and to our nation's cultural well-being. This includes government, business, foundation, and individual support. The NEA awards thousands of direct grants through its largest grant programs to nonprofit arts organizations for projects that encourage artistic creativity and that bring the arts to millions of Americans. In a striking example of federal/state partnership, 40 percent of NEA's program dollars are granted to state arts agencies, conditional on each state devoting its own appropriated funds. These grants, combined with state legislative appropriations and other dollars, are distributed widely to strengthen arts infrastructures and ensure broad access to the arts.

The NEA's FY 2020 budget is \$162.25 million, just 0.004 percent of the federal budget and 49 cents per capita. While the Administration's FY 2020 budget called for termination, the House approved a \$12.5 million increase and the Senate approved a \$2 million increase. Ultimately, Congress agreed upon a \$7.25 million increase from last year's allocation, which reflects steady and consistent bipartisan support over the last several years. Advocates hope to continue this trajectory, calling upon a funding level of \$170 million for FY21.