

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

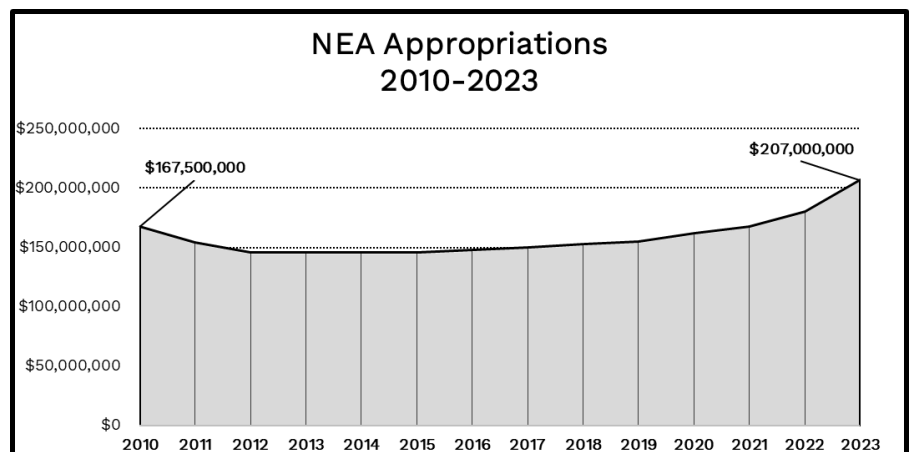
Grants awarded to orchestras by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and support provided to orchestras through NEA funds administered by state arts agencies, provide critical funding for projects that increase access to music in communities nationwide. NEA funding both directly supports local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

ACTION NEEDED

Continue bipartisan support and robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts in the FY 2024 Interior Appropriations bill at no less than \$211 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.

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 increased funding would expand and deepen its impact on our communities and our democracy. The arts sector is an economic engine, and as the nation continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the arts and culture sector is uniquely able to deliver on its mission to uplift, engage, educate, and innovate.



The Endowment's goals are fulfilled through awarding 60% of its grantmaking budget in direct grants to arts organizations across the country. Key facts about the NEA:

- 40% of the NEA's grantmaking budget is directed to state and regional arts agencies to administer, an extraordinary example of federal/state partnership, extending the NEA's reach further to millions of people in thousands of communities.
- 2,300 grants, on average, are awarded 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.
- 35% of Arts Endowment grants take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 35% of grants reach low-income audiences of under-resourced populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and Veterans.
- Approximately 4,000 communities are served each year through NEA grants. Around 41 million Americans annually attend a live arts event supported by the NEA, including approximately 36,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and 6,000 exhibitions.

THE NEA 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. For instance, 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.

- The NEA supports the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that have been under-resourced, especially in rural and inner-city communities. Challenge America grants and many Grants for Arts Project often support projects that provide performances that are free or at reduced prices. With data showing the growth of America's aging population (from 13.1% to 16.9% in the past decade), the NEA is promoting positive physical and mental health outcomes for elders by supporting creative aging projects and programs that teach traditional arts knowledge to the next generation.

THE NEA PROVIDES A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar approaches 9:1, far surpassing the required non-federal match. This has generated more than \$500 million in matching support and illustrates why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the NEA together calculate the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product. Despite continued challenges within the arts and culture sector due to the pandemic, the overall arts economy in 2021 represented 4.4 percent of GDP, or just over \$1.0 trillion—a new high-water mark. Additional analyses of the BEA data show the arts actually accelerate economic recovery and that a growth in arts employment has a positive and causal effect on overall employment.

THE NEA 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 among 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). Last year, the Creative Forces initiative added the Creative Forces Community Engagement grants to fund nonclinical art programs for active military members, Veterans, and family/caregivers. Grants totaling more than \$750,000 were awarded to 26 US organizations.

BACKGROUND

The NEA's FY 2023 budget is \$207 million, and the Administration has proposed an FY24 budget of \$211 million. Both chambers of Congress have consistently supported modest increases, reflecting steady and consistent bipartisan support over the last several years. Advocates hope to continue this trajectory, calling for continued funding in FY24.