

## 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

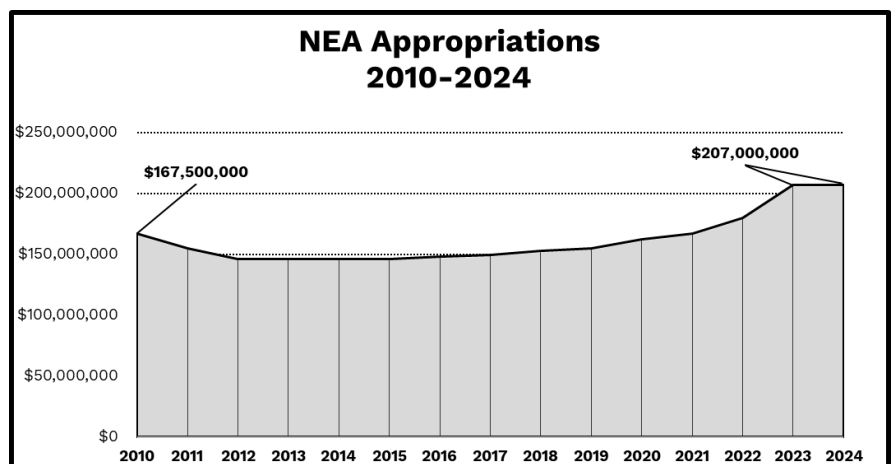
*Continue bipartisan support and robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts in the FY 2025 Interior Appropriations bill at no less than \$209 million to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across 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. The arts sector is an economic engine that brings people together and helps to uplift, engage, educate, and innovate.

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.
- 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

- The NEA supports the growth of arts activity in areas throughout the nation, from rural to inner-city communities. Challenge America grants and 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 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.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the NEA calculate the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product. Despite pandemic challenges, the overall arts economy in 2021 represented 4.4 percent of GDP, or just over \$1.0 trillion—a new high-water mark. Analyses of the BEA data show the arts accelerate economic recovery and have 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 and psychological health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

## BACKGROUND

The NEA's FY 2024 budget is \$207 million, and both chambers of Congress have a record of consistent bipartisan support for the agency over the last several years. The House-passed Interior bill allocates \$203.895M to the NEA while the Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended \$209M in FY25 for the NEA and NEH. Congress is now tasked with determining all federal funding levels before the current FY25 appropriations package expires on March 15. Orchestras and arts advocates now urge Congress to support the Senate recommendation for FY25.