



National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Request

- We urge Congress to provide at least \$155 million for the NEA in FY 2019.

Introduction

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provides direct federal funding to state arts agencies and to nonprofit arts institutions including museums. Its mission is to make art accessible to all and to provide leadership in arts education.

Established in 1965, NEA supports great art in every congressional district. Its grants to museums help them exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual material through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation and public programs. Grants are awarded for specific projects and require one-to-one matching funds provided by grant recipients.

Since 2010, the National Endowment for the Arts has collaborated with Blue Star Families and the U.S. Department of Defense on Blue Star Museums, a program which provides free museum admission to active duty military and their families all summer long. Each year, more than 2,000 museums participate, reaching on average more than 856,000 military members and their families.

Talking Points

- In 2017, the NEA provided more than 167 awards directly to museums, totaling more than \$5.1 million.
- Communities' demands on museums continue to climb, increasing pressure to serve more people with limited financial and human resources.
- Receiving a grant from the NEA confers prestige on supported projects, strengthening museums' ability to attract matching funds from other public and private funders. On average, each dollar awarded by the NEA leverages nine dollars from other sources, resulting in \$500 million in matching support in 2016.
- The federal role of the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely valuable. No other funder—public or private—funds the arts in every state and the U.S. territories.
- Forty percent of NEA's grant funds are distributed to state arts agencies for re-granting.

Status

- The NEA is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. It is currently funded by a continuing resolution at FY 2017 levels until final FY 2018 totals are agreed upon.
- The president's FY 2019 budget proposed eliminating NEA, only allocating funding for "orderly closeout."
- The House of Representatives proposed \$145 million for NEA in FY 2018; the Senate proposed level funding.

NEA Funding History (in millions)

	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 CR*	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19 President's Request
Appropriation	\$167.5	\$154.7	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$147.9	\$149.8	\$152.8	\$28.9

*In FY 2013, across-the-board sequestration cuts reduced NEA's effective funding to \$138.4 million.