



## National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

### Request

- We urge Congress to provide \$167.5 million for the NEA in FY 2020.

### 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. In 2018, more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states participated, reaching on average more than 900,000 military members and their families.

### Talking Points

- In 2018, the National Endowment for the Arts provided more than 100 awards directly to museums, totaling more than \$3.73 million.
- The Arts Endowment's report, *U.S. Trends in Arts Attendance and Literary Reading: 2002-2017*, notes that in 2017, 23.7 percent of U.S. adults (57.5 million people) visited an art museum or gallery. That share of adults represents an increase of 12.9 percent from 2012 to 2017. Attendance rates were helped by increases among: African Americans, 18-24 year-olds, 35-44 year-olds, and adults who received only "some college" education.
- 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 Arts Endowment leverages up to nine dollars from other public and private sources.
- 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.



**American  
Alliance of  
Museums**

**Status**

- The NEA is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. The House and Senate proposed \$155 million for NEA in FY 2019. The NEA received \$152.8 million in FY 2018 funding and \$155 million in FY 2019 funding, the latter of which was finalized in mid-February 2019 several months after the Oct. 1, 2018 start of the 2019 fiscal year.
- On July 18, 2018, an amendment offered by Representative Glenn S. Grothman (R-WI) that would have cut the NEA (and the NEH) by 15 percent was defeated by a roll call vote of 297-114.
- As in past years, the president’s FY 2020 budget proposed eliminating NEA, only allocating funding for “orderly closeout.”
- On June 25, 2019 the U.S. House of Representatives passed an appropriations package (H.R. 3055) that would provide \$167.5 million for NEA in FY 2020—a \$12.5 million increase. The Senate has yet to consider its Interior Appropriations bill.

**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	FY 20 President’s Request
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$167.5	\$154.7	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$147.9	\$149.8	\$152.8	\$155	Elimination

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