

# National Endowment for the Arts

## Request

We urge Congress to provide the House-passed level of \$201 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022 for the NEA and provide a robust funding increase for FY 2023.

## Introduction

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provides 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, the National Endowment for the Arts supports great art in every congressional district. NEA grants to museums help them exhibit, preserve, and interpret art through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation, and public programs, including the performing arts. Grants are also awarded for research, for example into the benefits of museum field trips for K-12 students. Grants are awarded for specific projects and require one-to-one matching funds from 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, which provides free museum admission to active duty military and their families all summer long. In 2019, more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states participated, reaching on average more than 900,000 military members and their families.

The agency also runs the Arts & Artifacts Indemnity program, which reduces the cost of insuring major exhibitions. Absent this program, such exhibitions would need to be reduced in scale. It saves museums millions of dollars annually, at a cost of almost zero to taxpayers.

In January 2022, the NEA announced it had recommended American Rescue Plan (ARP) awards totaling \$57.7 million to 567 arts organizations, including museums, to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. Organizations are using this funding to save jobs, and to fund operations and facilities, health and safety supplies, and marketing and promotional efforts to encourage attendance and participation. Grants were recommended to organizations in both rural and urban communities; in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC; and represent all 15 of the NEA's artistic disciplines. Among the recommended organizations, 27 percent were first-time NEA grantees and 78 percent were small or medium sized organizations with budgets of less than \$2 million. Grant award recommendations were for \$50,000, \$100,000, or \$150,000 and do not require cost share/matching funds.

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The American Rescue Plan included \$135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts for the arts sector. This was the third installment of ARP funding. In April 2021, the NEA announced \$52 million (40 percent) in ARP funding would be allocated to 62 state, jurisdictional, and regional arts organizations for subgranting through their respective programs. In November 2021, the NEA announced \$20.2 million to 66 local arts agencies for subgranting to local artists and art organizations. The NEA received more than 7,500 eligible applications requesting \$695 million.

## Talking Points

- Annually, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) typically provides more than 150 awards to museums and museum-related projects, totaling approximately \$5 million.
- The NEA's report, U.S. Trends in Arts Attendance and Literary Reading: 2002-2017, notes that in 2017, 23.7 percent of US 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.
- Receiving a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts 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 sources.
- The federal role of the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely valuable.

## National Endowment for the Arts

|                              | Appropriation<br>(in millions) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| FY 10                        | <b>\$167.5</b>                 |
| FY 11                        | <b>\$154.7</b>                 |
| FY 12                        | <b>\$146</b>                   |
| FY 13 CR*                    | <b>\$146</b>                   |
| FY 14                        | <b>\$146</b>                   |
| FY 15                        | <b>\$145</b>                   |
| FY 16                        | <b>\$147.9</b>                 |
| FY 17                        | <b>\$149.8</b>                 |
| FY 18                        | <b>\$152.8</b>                 |
| FY 19                        | <b>\$155</b>                   |
| FY 20                        | <b>\$162.25</b>                |
| FY 21                        | <b>\$167.5</b>                 |
| FY 22                        | <b>TBD</b>                     |
| FY 23<br>President's Request | <b>TBD</b>                     |

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

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- Forty percent of NEA's grant funds are distributed to state arts agencies for re-granting, ensuring that states may set their own priorities. include special encouragements to applications related to the United States' 250th anniversary. The agency has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to support a national convening to assess the state of civics education and knowledge of American history in K-12 education, and created new funding opportunities to support cultural infrastructure projects.
- For 13 years, NEH has supported important sustainability work on [energy efficiency projects in collections care](#).

## Status

The NEA is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. It is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) at the FY 2021 level of \$167.5 million through March 11 while Congress negotiates FY 2022 funding. The House-passed Interior bill included \$201 million for the agency.