

National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities: Promoting Creativity and Public Access to the Arts

We urge Congress to:

- Continue bipartisan support and robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Humanities (NEH) in the FY 2025 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.
- We encourage the Subcommittee to build a specific path to index funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at \$1 per capita. Each agency is currently funded at about 62 cents per capita. We also encourage continued parity between NEA and NEH funding.

Background:

The NEA's FY 2024 budget is \$207 million, just 0.004% of the federal budget and 62 cents per capita. The Administration's FY 2024 budget request for the NEA is \$_____. The Arts community is thankful for the House's bipartisan vote to stop an attempt to eliminate funding for the NEA in FY24.

- 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 should be more fully supported to expand and deepen its impact on our communities and our democracy. The NEA can help leverage the arts sector to play a key role in the work to imagine and build a new American economy. The Arts Endowment's goals are fulfilled by awarding 60% of its grantmaking budget in direct grants—reviewed and recommended by panels of experts—to arts organizations across the country, which signal artistic achievement and recognition. It awards the remaining 40% of its grantmaking budget directly to the states through state and regional arts agencies, an extraordinary example of federal/state partnership, extending the NEA's reach further to millions of people in thousands of communities.

Key facts about the NEA:

- The NEA annually recommends, on average, 2,300 grants across every Congressional District in the country. Most 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.
- Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations partner with the Arts Endowment on national initiatives, using the arts as a platform for enhancing the quality of life for all. Such partnership examples include Creative Forces, Poetry Out Loud, Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, NEA Big Read, Blue Star Museums, and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.
- 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 Provides a High Return on Investment:

- The ratio of private and other non-federal government funds matching every NEA grant dollar is 9:1, far surpassing the required non-federal match of at least 1:1. This generated more than \$500 million in matching support and illustrates why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- Data released by the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) last year showed that arts and cultural economic activity accounted for 4.4% of gross domestic product (GDP), or \$1.02 trillion, in 2021. This new high-water mark represents a larger percentage of GDP than powerhouse sectors like transportation, construction, and agriculture.
- **Americans for the Arts unveiled its *Arts & Economic Prosperity 6* in October, 2023. *Nationally, the non-profit arts sector generated \$151.7 billion of economic activity in 2022--\$73.3 billion in spending by arts and culture organizations and an additional \$78.4 billion in event-related expenditures by their audience.***