



**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)**  
PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

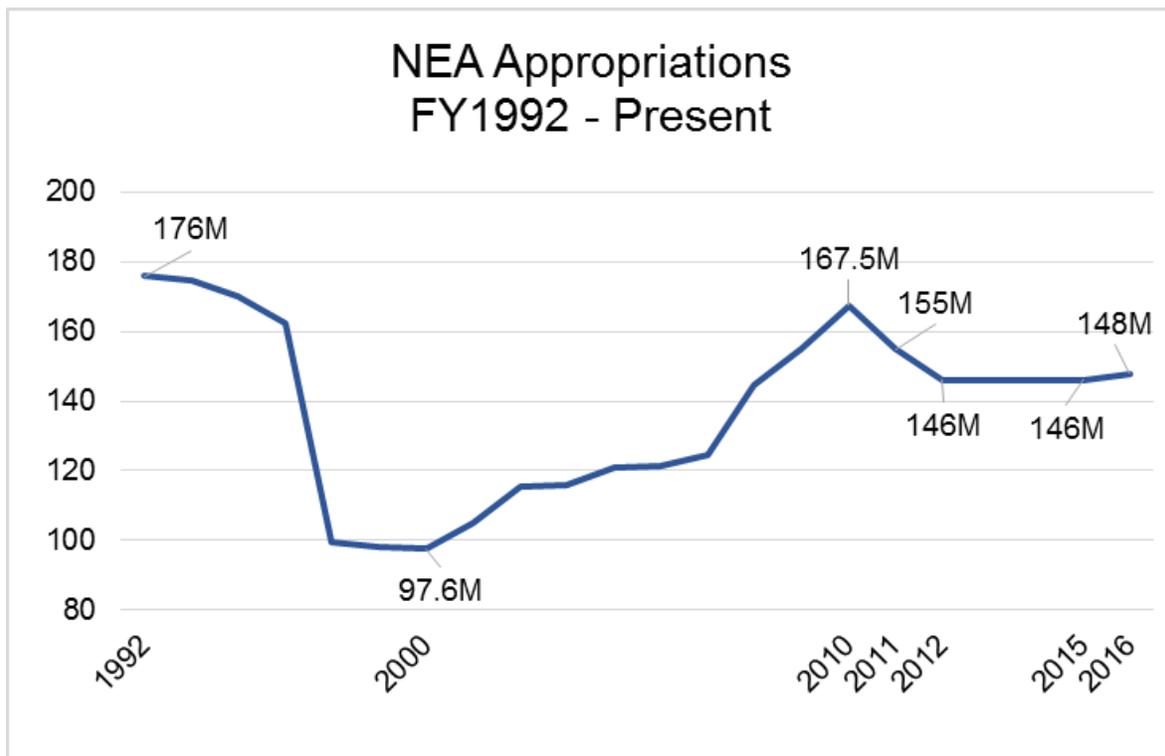
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**ACTION NEEDED**

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We urge Congress:

- To support a budget of \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill in order to preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.



**FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS IS UNIQUELY VALUABLE**

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The NEA mission is based on an abiding conviction that the arts play an integral role in our national life and public discourse: *To strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation.*

The NEA vision is a *nation in which every American benefits from arts engagement, and every community recognizes and celebrates its aspirations and achievements through the arts.*

As the Endowment celebrates its 50th anniversary, its mission and vision continue to be fulfilled primarily through direct grants to arts organizations across the country. In 2014, these grants:

- Reached more than 20 million people attending live arts events through NEA-supported programs (exclusive of television and radio broadcast audiences). These included approximately 30,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and more than 3,000 exhibitions.

- Impacted almost 16,000 communities engaged in NEA-supported projects, many benefiting from touring and outreach initiatives.
- Generated more than \$600 million in matching support.

## NEA—THREE KEY BENEFITS

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### Broadens Access to All

- The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. In fact, every congressional district benefits from an NEA grant.
- The NEA funds nonprofits throughout the country and has an exemplary partnership with states, with 40 percent of program funds distributed through state arts agencies. This federal-state partnership supports tens of thousands of grants in communities all throughout the U.S.
- The **Challenge America** category specifically offers support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, economics, or disability.
- NEA grants are also awarded through national initiatives, including **Art Works** which supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The **NEA Our Town** grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The **Big Read** initiative brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment, supporting innovative reading programs in selected communities. The **Creativity Connects** pilot grant opportunity supports partnerships between arts organizations and organizations from non-arts sectors. Those sectors may include business, education, environment, faith, finance, food, health, law, science, and technology.

### Provides High Return on Investment

- The NEA's budget is \$148 million—just 0.004 percent of the federal budget and 47 cents per capita.
- The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar will approach 10:1, far surpassing the required non-federal match of at least one to one.
- The nonprofit arts industry supports 4.13 million jobs in the arts and related industries. The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product at 4.32 percent, which amounts to an impressive \$698 billion.

### Supports Partnerships that Advance the Arts and Communities

- 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 between arts institutions and K-12 and college/university educators.
- NEA supports military families by partnering with Blue Star Families to present Blue Star Museums, which offers free admission to active-duty military and their families, and Blue Star Theatres, which offers free and discounted tickets to active-duty military and veterans and their families, along with access to education programs and special events for military families. The NEA recently expanded the NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership, which is a collaboration with the Department of Defense that supports music, writing, and visual art therapy at military care facilities.