

OUR ASK:

We urge Congress to:

- Continue bipartisan support to sustain and protect the full range of current operations for **the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** and **allocate at least \$213 Million in the FY27 Interior Appropriations bill**.
- Support continued **equal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**.
- Build a path to **index funding for the NEA and NEH each at \$1 per capita**, an increase from the current 61 cents per capita.

THE NEA: AMERICA'S LEAD SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS

The NEA plays a critical role in broadening access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts in **every Congressional District**. The arts boost economic productivity, improve education outcomes, foster civic cohesion, facilitate good health, and preserve our cherished heritage and traditions.

The NEA's impact goes beyond grantmaking. It supports community projects and local jobs, spurs creativity and innovation, and conducts important national data collection and research about arts participation. As **the largest national public funder of the arts, the NEA reaches hundreds of counties not served by the 1000 largest private foundations**. In addition, **the NEA is a leader in arts education in the United States**, and its awards generate support from other sources, including private foundations, corporate donors, and individual contributors.

THE NEA PROVIDES A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- The ratio of private and other public funds far surpasses the required non-federal match of at least 1:1. More than \$500 million annually has been generated in matching support, illustrating why federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the NEA together calculate the arts and culture sector's contributions to the gross domestic product. **In 2023, arts and culture added over \$1.2 trillion, or 4.2%, to national GDP**, and nationwide employment in the sector increased to a **total of 5.4 million arts and cultural jobs**. The arts are also a powerful export industry boasting a trade surplus of \$36.8 billion in 2023.
- Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) is an economic and social impact study of the nation's **nonprofit arts and culture industry**. Nationally, the sector generated **\$151.7 billion of economic activity** in 2022, including **\$73.3 billion in spending** by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and an additional **\$78.4 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences**. This nonprofit economic activity supported **2.6 million jobs** and generated **\$29.1 billion in tax revenue** to local, state, and federal governments.

THE NEA IS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE FEDERAL LEADERSHIP AND STATE, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

- For decades, the NEA has awarded 60% of its grantmaking budget to arts organizations and **40% to state and regional arts agencies for local granting**, leveraging matching government investment nationally.
- It awards approximately 2,300 grants, **benefiting every Congressional District**. The majority of grants go to small and medium-sized organizations (budgets less than \$2 million) and supports projects that increase audience access to a wide variety of arts programming.
- Approximately **4,000 communities of all sizes are served each year through NEA grants**, with many projects bringing the arts to geographically underserved areas.
- Around **41 million Americans annually attend live arts events supported by the NEA**, including approximately 36,000 concerts, readings, and performances, and 6,000 exhibitions. Millions more attend these events and access other artistic and educational experiences online.
- **Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations partner with the NEA** on national initiatives including Creative Forces, Shakespeare in American Communities, Blue Star Museums, NEA Big Read, Poetry Out Loud, and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design.

THE NEA BROADENS ARTS ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS

- A significant percentage of NEA grants benefit those who have fewer opportunities to participate in the arts by offering free or reduced-price performances and programming specifically serving students in rural and urban schools.
- The NEA supports military and military-connected communities through its **Creative Forces program, a collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to aid military patients and veterans diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder**. Since 2022, the Creative Forces initiative has awarded 150 Creative Forces Community Engagement grants to fund nonclinical arts programs for active military and military-connected communities across the US, including communities in Alaska, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia.
- The NEA **promotes positive physical and mental health outcomes** by supporting creative aging projects and wellness programs in communities and clinical settings. The NEA studies the impact of the arts to address social isolation, opioid addiction, dementia, and more.
- The NEA funds **pre-K to 12 projects that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills** in the arts and apply the arts to learning in other subjects. It also supports educational programs for adults, collaborations between state agencies, and partnerships between arts institutions and educators at every level.
- The NEA also invests in **Native arts and culture by providing grants to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities** and organizations for a wide range of arts activities, from traditional to contemporary arts. Working with Native-led national service organizations and an interagency federal working group, the NEA carries out strategic outreach to Native communities and artists and works in consultation with federally recognized tribal communities and tribes.
- Since 2019, the **NEA has established and cultivated ongoing relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)** and has made recent grants to HBCUs, such as supporting professional development in opera for undergraduate and graduate students in Jackson State University (MS).

This Issue Brief was prepared by the Cultural Advocacy Group (CAG), a collaboration of arts and culture stakeholders working collectively to advance federal policy. Chorus America is a proud member of CAG.