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State Arts Funding Decreases in FY 2009

WASHINGTON, DC—Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies decreased by 3.3% in fiscal year 2009, according to the *Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey* published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). Between fiscal years 2008 and 2009, state arts agencies lost \$11.6 million in state funds, leaving total legislative appropriations to state arts agencies at \$343.1 million, or \$1.12 per capita.

Fiscal year 2009 marks a decline in legislative appropriations, following four consecutive years of increases. The number of states experiencing increases (21) and decreases (24) were approximately equal, while a handful of major decreases accounted for the aggregate percent decline. The most significant cuts took place in Florida, South Carolina and New Jersey.

"The arts are worthy of continued public investment," says Jonathan Katz, NASAA CEO. "They represent part of the solution in today's troubled times. Nonprofit arts organizations, which are creating jobs at a faster rate than the for-profit sector, are being subjected to external forces that threaten their very existence. Investment in these organizations helps to secure jobs, keep downtowns and neighborhoods vital, and ensure the continuation of the services that artists and arts organizations provide."

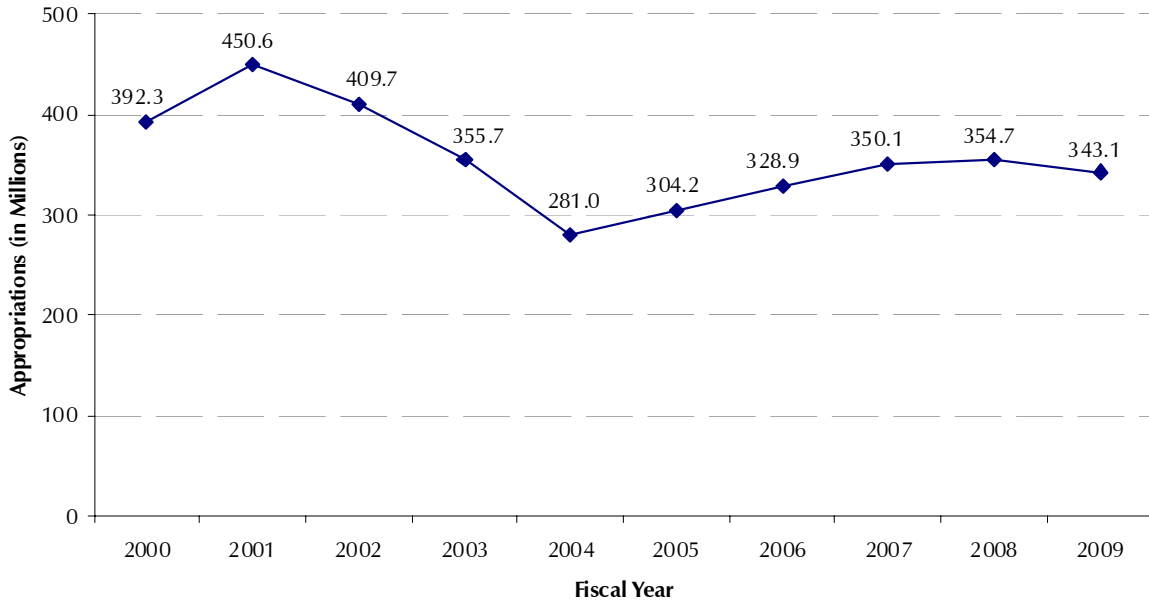
State Arts Agency Facts

- States currently invest \$343.1 million—about \$1.12 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agency appropriations comprise 0.044 percent (less than one tenth of one percent) of total state general fund expenditures in fiscal year 2009.
- Each year, state arts agencies fund approximately 18,000 organizations, schools and artists in more than 5,100 communities across the United States.

The decrease in arts appropriations reflects poor conditions for state budgets overall. Fiscal year 2008 marked a year of slowed fiscal growth for most states. With economic conditions deteriorating, growth is expected to slow even further in fiscal year 2009. States have already closed a \$40 billion budget gap for 2009, with 18 states reporting decreased budgets over the previous year. The National Governors Association predicts a \$200 billion budget gap over the next two years. Due to the erratic nature of the downturn, state economists are unable to give governors and legislative leaders reliable projections for the coming years. Appropriations are likely to decline in 2010 for many state services, including the arts. Most state arts agencies have yet to fully recover from cuts enacted during the last recession.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization of the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. The public sector plays a unique and essential role in ensuring that the benefits of the arts accrue to all American communities. State arts agencies broaden citizen access to the arts in every corner of the country, making the cultural, civic, educational and economic benefits of the arts an essential ingredient of state policy and practice. For information on state arts agencies or NASAA, visit www.nasaa-arts.org; write to 1029 Vermont Avenue NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20005; or email nasaa@nasaa-arts.org.

Total State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Fiscal Years 2000-2009



Total State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Changes Fiscal Years 2008-2009

Increases	
Number of SAAs	21
Number of SAAs up 10% or more	5
Median percent change	5.0%
Flat Funding	
Number of SAAs	11
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	24
Number of SAAs down 10% or more	11
Median percent change	-8.5%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	-3.3%
Median percent change	0.0%

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, *Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey*, February 2009.

Total State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Fiscal Years 2008-2009

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriation Including Line Items		Percent Change FY08 to FY09
	FY2008	FY2009	
Alabama	\$ 5,823,785	\$ 5,470,341	-6.1%
Alaska	609,800	668,400	9.6%
American Samoa+	44,000	44,000	0.0%
Arizona	2,011,900	1,888,100	-6.2%
Arkansas	1,565,748	1,597,196	2.0%
California	4,015,000	4,286,000	6.7%
Colorado	1,531,336	1,600,034	4.5%
Connecticut	9,879,823	9,441,926	-4.4%
Delaware	2,058,100	1,970,900	-4.2%
District of Columbia♦	9,530,000	13,226,696	38.8%
¹ Florida♦	15,091,091	7,159,766	-52.6%
Georgia	4,188,942	3,780,623	-9.7%
Guam	381,853	332,035	-13.0%
Hawaii♦	7,661,020	6,595,690	-13.9%
Idaho	956,600	951,100	-0.6%
Illinois♦	15,205,400	15,958,900	5.0%
Indiana	3,975,695	3,967,762	-0.2%
Iowa ^	1,246,392	1,260,842	1.2%
Kansas	1,658,616	1,733,847	4.5%
Kentucky	4,182,600	3,552,100	-15.1%
Louisiana♦	6,715,439	7,259,344	8.1%
² Maine	795,439	746,609	-6.1%
Maryland	15,197,003	14,183,074	-6.7%
³ Massachusetts	12,297,849	12,658,827	2.9%
Michigan	7,488,400	7,567,200	1.1%
Minnesota	10,215,000	10,227,000	0.1%
Mississippi	1,856,259	1,906,859	2.7%
⁴ Missouri	10,665,150	14,545,150	36.4%
⁵ Montana ^	544,232	459,035	-15.7%
Nebraska	1,468,035	1,479,714	0.8%
Nevada	1,913,069	1,691,450	-11.6%
New Hampshire	840,381	780,108	-7.2%
New Jersey♦	28,498,000	22,134,000	-22.3%
⁶ New Mexico	2,249,700	2,512,600	11.7%
New York	49,810,350	49,810,350	0.0%
North Carolina♦	10,513,962	10,685,307	1.6%
North Dakota	584,523	584,523	0.0%
Northern Marianas+	242,468	242,468	0.0%
Ohio	11,265,529	10,680,536	-5.2%
Oklahoma	5,150,967	5,150,967	0.0%
Oregon ^	2,114,553	2,114,553	0.0%
Pennsylvania	15,225,000	14,578,000	-4.2%
Puerto Rico	28,139,000	27,930,000	-0.7%
Rhode Island♦	2,504,180	2,094,845	-16.3%
South Carolina♦	5,445,287	4,069,928	-25.3%
South Dakota	635,992	643,509	1.2%
Tennessee	7,261,800	8,084,200	11.3%
Texas	3,480,541	3,687,908	6.0%
⁷ Utah♦	4,341,700	3,657,000	-15.8%
Vermont	545,618	531,526	-2.6%
Virgin Islands+	598,000	598,000	0.0%
Virginia	6,213,094	5,262,774	-15.3%
Washington	2,564,500	2,554,500	-0.4%
West Virginia	2,572,036	2,794,674	8.7%
Wisconsin	2,470,200	2,470,200	0.0%
Wyoming	705,325	1,253,676	77.7%
Total	\$ 354,746,282	\$ 343,116,672	-3.3%

Table Footnotes:

^ Figures reflect SAA revenue only and do not include appropriations to the state's cultural endowment.

+ Jurisdiction did not provide FY09 appropriation information. Flat funding is assumed until new budgets are determined.

♦ Percent change is significantly affected by a change in line items.

¹ Florida

Figures reflect an additional \$2.4 million that the SAA will use to administer the Museum of Florida History along with the History Museum grants program. Excluding museum dollars, the SAA appropriation decreased by 68.5%.

² Maine

Figures do not reflect an additional reduction of \$41,000 that is likely to occur before the end of FY09.

³ Massachusetts

Figures reflect SAA budget only and do not include appropriations of \$6.5 million to the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund.

⁴ Missouri

Increase in appropriations is due to increase in projected entertainment tax revenue.

⁵ Montana

Reduction is mostly due to conclusion of a one-time appropriation in FY08.

⁶ New Mexico

Figures do not include a 5% reduction that is likely to take place in FY09.

⁷ Utah

Figures reflect the SAA budget only and do not include funds of \$16 million during the next four years to the Board of Education for the Beverly Sorensen Arts Learning Program. Although funds do not flow through the agency budget, the SAA provides staff support for the program.

The data in this report reflects the situation of state arts agencies as of November 2008. NASAA will survey SAAs in the spring for updated figures.