

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Artists form the foundation of a state’s creative environment. Artists act as creators and individual entrepreneurs who provide many of the products and designs that drive innovation and shape a state’s cultural character. Many artists also work as educators, providing training in creative skills and passing on cultural traditions from one generation to the next. State arts agencies (SAAs) support artists through a variety of grants and services.

**Grant funding:** State arts agencies currently invest about \$6 million in grants to individual artists. Both the number of grants and total dollars to individual artists have decreased during recessions. However, as a portion of all SAA grants, artists grants have held steady, making up about 3% of all grants and between 11% and 14% of all grant dollars during the last 10 years.

Fellowships (awards that honor the achievements of artists and encourage the development of new creative works) are a common type of grant support. These make up nearly 30% of SAAs’ individual artist grants in terms of dollar amounts. SAAs also provide grants for commissions, as well as project support for performances, exhibits, apprenticeships, professional development, instruction and residencies.

Grant dollars awarded to artists:	\$6,257,678
Share of all SAA grant dollars:	3%
Median artist grant size:	\$1,500
Number of artist grants awarded:	2,526
Share of all SAA grants:	11%
Artist fellowships grants	
Grant dollars awarded:	\$1,803,421
Number of grants awarded:	386
Median fellowship size:	\$5,000

**Programs and services:** In addition to direct financial support, state arts agencies provide services and information to assist artists. One important SAA goal is to broaden opportunities for artists to showcase their work. To this end, numerous SAAs maintain artist rosters, which promote performing artists and encourage their booking for residencies and touring. Many SAAs offer galleries (both physical and virtual) and statewide art collections that encourage the display of art in public spaces. SAAs also offer training and networking services through conferences, workshops, and web seminars that assist artists with business development and connect them with peers. Information on topics such as health insurance, resource development and technology are also important SAA services.

## State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists Fiscal Years 2002-2011

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants	Percent of SAA Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of SAA Grant Dollars
2011	2,526	11%	\$6,257,678	3%
2010	2,372	11%	\$6,038,044	3%
2009	2,767	12%	\$7,145,270	3%
2008	2,802	12%	\$8,319,723	3%
2007	2,859	12%	\$8,579,842	3%
2006	3,007	12%	\$7,754,235	3%
2005	2,708	11%	\$8,365,979	3%
2004	2,688	11%	\$7,527,562	3%
2003	3,369	13%	\$10,180,799	3%
2002	3,865	14%	\$11,213,772	3%

## Individual Artist Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies

Fiscal Year 2011

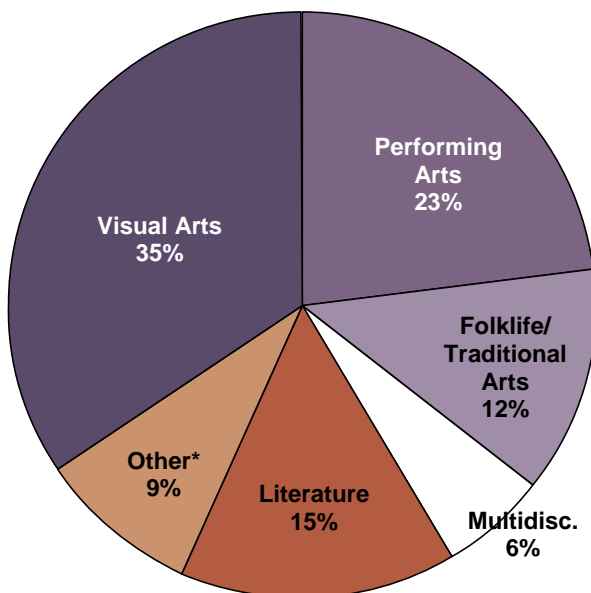
Grant Activity	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Dollars
Fellowships	386	15.28%	\$1,803,421	28.82%
Artwork Creation	311	12.31%	\$1,058,734	16.92%
Performances/Readings/Exhibitions	558	22.09%	\$1,039,664	16.61%
Apprenticeship	184	7.28%	\$373,770	5.97%
Arts Instruction	132	5.23%	\$316,392	5.06%
Professional Development	288	11.40%	\$223,916	3.58%
Other*	667	26.41%	\$1,441,781	23.04%

\* Other activities include residencies, marketing, fairs/festivals, equipment acquisition, publication, etc.

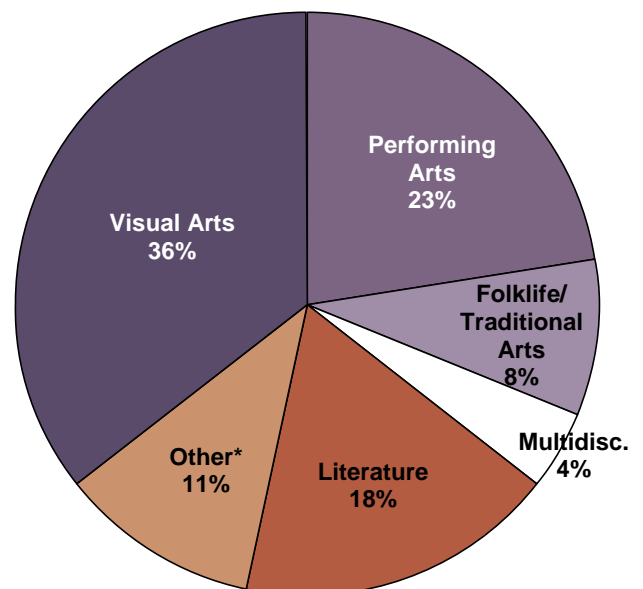
## State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

by Artistic Discipline  
Fiscal Year 2011

**Number of Grants**



**Grant Dollars**



\* Other artistic disciplines include media arts, interdisciplinary, and design.

Figures represent data from fiscal year 2011 or the most recent information available. Statistics reflect only grants awarded. They do not reflect other state arts agency programs and services, which in some instances make up a substantial portion of support for individual artists.

### National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) represents the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies and serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. This report draws on data from state arts agencies' final descriptive reports of grant-making activity submitted annually to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and NASAA. NASAA's collection of grant-making statistics is supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the NEA. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352, e-mail [nasaa@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:nasaa@nasaa-arts.org) or visit [www.nasaa-arts.org](http://www.nasaa-arts.org).

National Assembly of  
State Arts Agencies

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