SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES

Through many kinds of grants and services, state arts agencies increase citizen access to the arts and help each state to cultivate and promote its unique creative assets. Local arts agencies—both nonprofit organizations and those that are part of municipal or county governments—are important state arts agency partners. Together, state and local arts agencies work to ensure that the cultural, civic, educational and economic benefits of the arts are available to every community in America. State arts agency support for local arts agencies takes many forms:

- **Grant funding:** State arts agencies invest more than $31 million in local arts agencies. These grants strengthen the programming and capacity of local arts agencies, helping them to secure additional public and private dollars at the local level. About one-quarter of the dollars awarded to local arts agencies by state arts agencies is operating support—flexible dollars that can be used to support community arts activities and operations in accordance with local needs and circumstances.

- **Decentralization programs:** Twenty-four states have decentralization programs through which block grants of state arts council funds are provided to local arts agencies for regranting at the community level. These programs encourage local decision making and extend the reach of state dollars. Half of the dollars awarded to local arts agencies by state arts agencies is regranted through such programs.

- **Infrastructure development:** State arts agencies provide technical assistance, training and convening services that strengthen the local arts agency network and support a strong statewide infrastructure for the arts at the local level. Sometimes these goals are accomplished through state arts agency funding of a statewide alliance of local arts agencies. In other cases, the state arts agency itself serves as a coordinating body for these activities.

- **Strategic partnerships:** State arts agencies and local arts agencies often collaborate on initiatives, policies or programs designed to increase citizen participation in or raise public awareness about the arts.

### State Arts Agency (SAA) Grants to Local Arts Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Dollars</th>
<th>Percent of SAA Grant Dollars</th>
<th>Number of Grants</th>
<th>Percent of SAA Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$31,872,323</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>7%</td>
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The figures in this snapshot represent data from 2012 or the most recent information available. Statistics reflect only grants awarded by the state arts agency. They do not reflect other state arts agency programs and services, which in some instances make up a substantial portion of state arts agency activities.
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 NASAA at 202-347-6352, e-mail nasaa@nasaa-arts.org or visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

* Other activities include arts education programs, marketing assistance, individual artist funding, professional development, etc.

**Local Arts Agency Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies**

- **Regranting:** 51% of $16.2 million
- **Operating Support:** 21% of $6.7 million
- **Performances & Exhibitions:** 5% of $1.5 million
- **Other Activities*:** 23% of $7.4 million

**State Arts Agency Awards to Local Arts Agencies**

Award Sites – Fiscal Year 2012

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**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**