

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Artists form the foundation of a state’s creative environment. They 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 almost \$7 million in grants to individual artists. Total dollar amounts and grants to individual artists declined during the past two recessions. However, in the last two years, states have increased grant dollars going to individual artists. Additionally, as a proportion of all SAA grants, artists’ grants have held steady, making up about 3% of all grants and between 11% and 13% 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.

State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists	
Grant dollars awarded to artists:	\$6,769,549
Share of all SAA grant dollars:	3%
Median artist grant size:	\$1,500
Number of artist grants awarded:	2,236
Share of all SAA grants:	11%
Artist fellowships grants	
Grant dollars awarded:	\$1,816,105
Number of grants awarded:	438
Median fellowship size:	\$4,000

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 other important SAA services.

State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists Fiscal Years 2003-2012

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants	Percent of SAA Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of SAA Grant Dollars
2012	2,236	11%	\$6,769,549	3%
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%

Individual Artist Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies

Fiscal Year 2012

Grant Activity	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Dollars
Fellowships	438	19.85%	\$1,816,105	26.98%
Artwork Creation	245	11.11%	\$1,049,881	15.59%
Performances/Readings/Exhibitions	421	18.83%	\$1,472,327	21.75%
Apprenticeship	132	5.98%	\$332,749	4.94%
Arts Instruction	111	5.03%	\$314,235	4.67%
Professional Development/Training	254	11.51%	\$353,040	5.24%
Other*	635	28.40%	\$1,431,212	21.14%

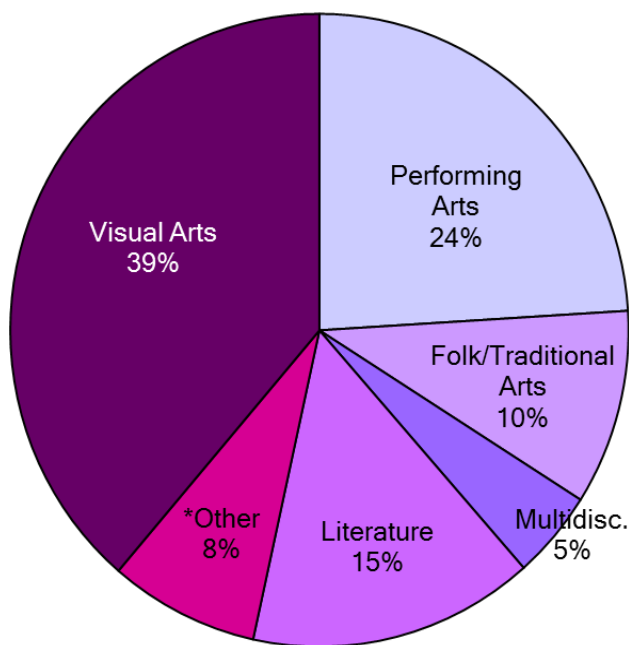
* Other activities include residencies, marketing, fairs/festivals, equipment acquisition, publication, etc.

State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

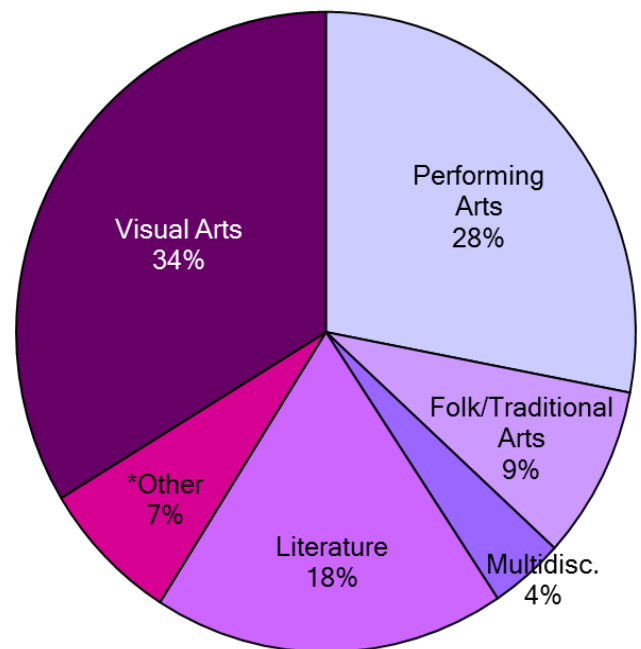
by Artistic Discipline

Fiscal Year 2012

Number of Grants



Grant Dollars



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

Figures represent data from fiscal year 2012 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) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA 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 or visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

National Assembly of
State Arts Agencies
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