

# 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 \$8 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 more than one-tenth 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 a quarter 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, FY2014

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Grant dollars awarded to artists: |             |
| \$7,942,024                       |             |
| Share of all SAA grant dollars:   | 3%          |
| Median artist grant size:         | \$2,000     |
| Number of artist grants awarded:  | 2,146       |
| Share of all SAA grants:          | 10%         |
| Artist fellowships grants         |             |
| Grant dollars awarded:            | \$2,283,427 |
| Number of grants awarded:         | 457         |
| 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 other important SAA services.

## State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

Fiscal Years 2005-2014

| Fiscal Year | Number of Grants | Percent of SAA Grants | Grant Dollars | Percent of SAA Grant Dollars |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 2005        | 2,708            | 11%                   | \$8,365,979   | 3%                           |
| 2006        | 3,007            | 12%                   | \$7,754,235   | 3%                           |
| 2007        | 2,859            | 12%                   | \$8,579,842   | 3%                           |
| 2008        | 2,802            | 12%                   | \$8,319,723   | 3%                           |
| 2009        | 2,767            | 12%                   | \$7,145,270   | 3%                           |
| 2010        | 2,372            | 11%                   | \$6,038,044   | 3%                           |
| 2011        | 2,526            | 11%                   | \$6,257,678   | 3%                           |
| 2012        | 2,236            | 11%                   | \$6,769,549   | 3%                           |
| 2013        | 2,314            | 11%                   | \$6,745,559   | 3%                           |
| 2014        | 2146             | 10%                   | \$7,942,024   | 3%                           |

## Individual Artist Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies

Fiscal Year 2014

| Grant Activity                    | No. of Grants | Percent of Grants | Grant Dollars | Percent of Dollars |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Fellowships                       | 457           | 21.30%            | \$2,283,427   | 28.75%             |
| Artwork Creation                  | 196           | 9.13%             | \$513,673     | 6.47%              |
| Performances/Readings/Exhibitions | 512           | 23.86%            | \$2,522,313   | 31.76%             |
| Apprenticeship                    | 132           | 6.15%             | \$304,326     | 3.83%              |
| Arts Instruction                  | 129           | 6.01%             | \$253,930     | 3.20%              |
| Professional Development/Training | 203           | 9.46%             | \$203,140     | 2.56%              |
| Other*                            | 517           | 24.09%            | \$1,861,215   | 23.44%             |

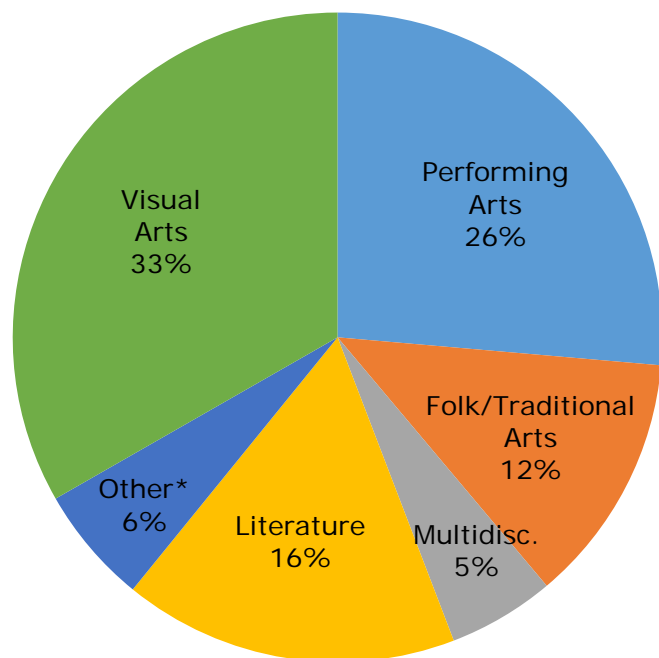
\* Other activities include residencies, marketing, fairs/festivals, equipment acquisition, publication, etc.

## State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

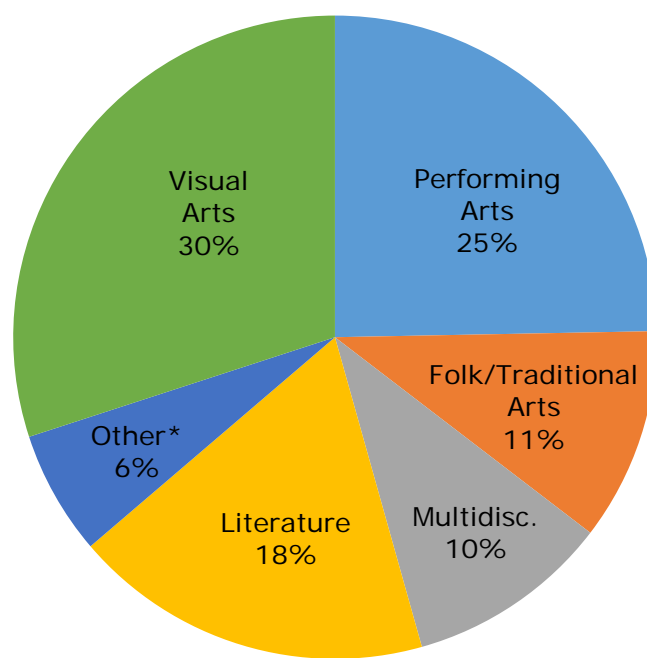
by Artistic Discipline

Fiscal Year 2014

Number of Grants



Grant Dollars



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

Figures represent data from fiscal year 2014 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 NASAA at 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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Endowment  
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arts.gov