

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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Fast Facts about the National Endowment for the Arts

January 2016

NEA Appropriations

- The NEA's \$148 million budget represents just **0.012%** (about one one-hundredth of one percent) of federal discretionary spending.
- The NEA has already sustained significant budget reductions. The NEA appropriation is **12% lower** than it was in 2010, a decline of **\$19.5 million**.
- Each **\$1** in NEA grant funds leverages another **\$7** from other public and private sources.

Everyone Benefits

- The NEA has an exemplary partnership with states. Forty percent of all NEA program funds—approximately \$47.3 million in FY 2016—are distributed through state arts agencies. In combination with approximately \$360 million in state appropriations, **the federal-state partnership supports more than 23,000 grants in 5,000 communities across the United States**. Voters in every congressional district are stakeholders in sustaining this successful partnership.
- Combined, NEA and state arts agency grant awards reached **all 435 federal congressional districts**.
- NEA direct grants made possible more than 30,000 concerts, readings, performances and 3,000 exhibitions in 2014. More than **20 million individuals** attended such live events (exclusive of television and radio).
- **The arts reach rural areas**. States use NEA and state legislative funds together to address the unique needs of rural areas. **26%** of state arts agency grants go to rural communities. Even larger proportions of grants and grant dollars go to rural areas in states with larger rural populations.

Impact of the Arts

- **The arts are positive investment**. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production contributes more than **\$698 billion to the U.S. economy**. This equates to 4.3 percent of GDP which is greater than construction (\$586.7B) or transportation and warehousing (\$464.1B).
- **The arts create jobs**. Arts and culture supports 4.7 million workers. For every 100 jobs created from new demand for the arts, 62 additional jobs are created.
- **The arts strengthen education**. [Research confirms](#) that the arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing students' academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st-century work force.

NEA Funding to Idaho: What's at Stake

- In its 2015 fiscal year the NEA provided \$751,800 in Partnership Agreement funds to the Idaho Commission on the Arts. These are critical funds, used in conjunction with state legislative dollars to support grants and services across the entire state of Idaho.
- The Idaho Commission on the Arts, in its 2014 fiscal year, used NEA and state funds to provide not only 170 grants totaling \$566,136 but also non-grant services to arts organizations, community groups, schools and artists. These grants and services supported access to the arts, employment, arts education, community well-being and the cultural heritage of the entire state.
- Also affected by NEA budget cuts would be direct grants to arts organizations in each state. In fiscal year 2015 the NEA made 8 direct grants totaling \$127,500 in Idaho.

National Endowment for the Arts and Idaho Commission on the Arts Grants

