

National Endowment for the Arts Arts Investment Fact Sheet

January 2023

National Endowment for the Arts Appropriations

- Each **\$1 in National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant funds leverages another \$9** from other public and private sources, resulting in \$500 million in matching support.
- The \$207 million budget of the NEA represents just **0.012%** (one hundredth of one percent) of annual federal spending.

Everyone Benefits

- The NEA has an exemplary partnership with states. **Forty percent** of all NEA program funds—approximately \$45.7 million in fiscal year 2022—is distributed through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.
- In combination with approximately \$763 [million in state appropriations](#), **the federal-state partnership supports more than [25,000 grants in 16,000 communities](#) across the United States.**
- Combined, NEA and state arts agency grant awards **reach all 435 federal congressional districts.**
- **The arts reach rural areas.** States use NEA and state legislative funds together to address the unique needs of rural areas. [Twenty-one percent 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.
- NEA funding benefits **underserved populations**, such as people with disabilities, people in institutions and veterans. [Thirty-six percent of activities supported by the NEA reach underserved populations.](#)

Return on Investment

- **The arts are a positive investment.** [The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) reports that [arts and cultural production contributes nearly \\$876,665 billion](#) to the nation's economy. This equates to **4.2% of GDP**, which is a greater percentage than transportation and warehousing (2.7%).
- **The arts create jobs.** Arts and culture support **4.6 million wage and salary workers** and many more independent jobs.
- **The arts help economies recover.** The arts and culture sector [sees robust economic growth](#) even during economic downturns. This resilient growth supports states' economies even during recessions.
- **The arts strengthen education.** [Research confirms](#) that the arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, improving emotional intelligence and enhancing students' academic achievement in multiple subject areas.
- **The arts have positive health outcomes, especially for military service members.** The [National Endowment for the Arts' Creative Forces](#) initiative now has clinical sites at 13 military bases and 10 community connection sites throughout the country. In 2020, Creative Forces supported approximately **23,000 encounters** and treated **more than 4,000 patients**.