National Endowment for the Arts
Arts Investment Fact Sheet
March 2021

National Endowment for the Arts Appropriations

- Each $1 in National Endowment for the Arts grant funds leverages another $9 from other public and private sources, resulting in $500 million in matching support.

- The $167.5 million budget of the National Endowment for the Arts represents just 0.0035% (less than four thousandths of one percent) of the federal budget.

Everyone Benefits

- The National Endowment for the Arts (Arts Endowment) has an exemplary partnership with states. Forty percent of all Arts Endowment program funds—approximately $49.2 million in fiscal year 2019—are distributed through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

- In combination with approximately $402.4 million in state appropriations, the federal-state partnership supports more than 27,000 grants in over 7,600 communities across the United States.

- Combined, Arts Endowment and state arts agency grant awards reach all 435 federal congressional districts.

- The arts reach rural areas. States use Arts Endowment and state legislative funds together to address the unique needs of rural areas. Twenty-three 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.

- Arts Endowment funding benefits economically distressed communities. Forty-two percent of activities supported by the Arts Endowment take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Return on Investment

- The arts are a positive investment. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production contributes more than $919.7 billion to the nation's economy. This equates to 4.3% of GDP, which is greater than construction ($892.7 billion) or transportation ($696.7 billion).
- **The arts create jobs.** Arts and culture support *5.2 million* wage and salary workers and many more independent jobs.

- **The arts create resilient economies that can recover quickly.** The arts and culture sector can improve—not merely reflect—the health of the broader economy. The arts offer economic diversification, which can help communities more rapidly recover from economic downturns.

- **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 benefits of an arts education are particularly important for at-risk youth.

- **The arts have positive health outcomes, especially for military service members.** The Arts Endowment’s 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.