National Endowment for the Arts
Arts Investment Fact Sheet
March 2020

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 $162.5 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 $48.3 million in fiscal year 2018—are distributed through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

• In combination with approximately $494.2 million in state appropriations, the federal-state partnership supports more than 25,000 grants in 16,000 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-two 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 $877.8 billion to the nation’s economy. This equates to 4.5% of GDP, which is greater than construction ($790.4 billion) or transportation ($612.4 billion).
• **The arts create jobs.** Arts and culture support **5.1 million wage and salary workers** and many more independent jobs.

• **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.

• **The arts have positive health outcomes, especially for military service members.** The Arts Endowment's Creative Forces initiative now has clinical sites at 11 military bases throughout the country. In 2018, Creative Forces supported approximately **14,000 encounters** and treated **2,800 new patients**.