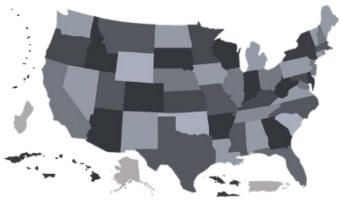
America Supports the Arts

Who's Who in Government Arts Funding



The **federal government** invests nearly $150 million in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

ART WORKS.

By law, 40% of NEA grant funds are allocated to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

The 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) receive most of their funds from **state government.** They combine $358 million in state funds with NEA money to support arts and culture at the state level. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) represents all of the state arts agencies.

NASAA

Counties and municipalities invest in the arts, spending an estimated $827 million on local arts activities. Local arts agencies are represented by Americans for the Arts. Many state arts agencies also are members.

AMERICANS for the ARTS

Total Investment = $1.3 billion

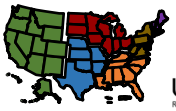
How Funds Are Distributed

In addition to Partnership Agreement block grants to states and regions, the **NEA uses federal funds to award 2,400 direct grants** each year.

The 56 **SAAs award around 20,000 grants** each year, using state and federal dollars. Grants go to arts organizations, individual artists, civic groups and schools.

Local arts agencies spend their funds on a mixture of grassroots **grants** and **direct arts programs,** such as festivals, exhibitions and public art.

Most SAAs belong to one of six **regional arts organizations** (RAOs). RAOs are nonprofit groups that use private, SAA and NEA funds for multi-state programs.



US RAO
Regional Arts Organizations

Learn more on line!

Who Benefits?

Public arts funding reaches people in all geographies…

…and supports all art forms.

- 43% of NEA-sponsored projects take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 36% of NEA grants reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
- 25% of all SAA grants are awarded to rural communities.
- 54% of SAA grants are awarded to lower income counties.

What Are the Outcomes?

Health
The arts improve health outcomes for patients, including the military and the aging.

Jobs
The creative industries employ nearly 5 million workers, more than 3% of all U.S. jobs.

Economy
The arts contribute $764 billion to the U.S. economy and generate a $20 billion trade surplus.

Leverage
Each $1 of public funding leverages another $9 in local and private investment.

Education
Arts education spurs higher achievement and reduces school dropout rates.

Innovation
Public support for the arts fuels creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Get the Facts

The Arts & America's Bottom Line

Why Should Government Support the Arts?

Engagement
The arts increase civic involvement and community volunteerism.

Who Makes the Case?

Advocacy at the federal, state and local levels:

	Federal	State	Local
Most states have **citizen advocacy groups** that advocate for both federal and state arts support. Some also advocate locally.	✓	✓	✓
Some **regional arts organizations** support advocacy at the federal and/or state levels.	✓	✓	
NASAA advocates for federal support, with a focus on the policy interests of state arts agencies. NASAA also provides tools and skills to help SAAs make a case for state funds.	✓	✓	
Americans for the Arts mobilizes advocacy at all three levels of government and also organizes the State Arts Action Network (SAAN), the affinity group for state citizen advocacy groups.	✓	✓	✓
National arts service organizations advocate for NEA funding and issues of importance to their disciplines.	✓		

To send Congress a unified advocacy message, national arts organizations have formed a coalition called the **Cultural Advocacy Group (CAG).**

Partnering with policy organizations trusted by federal and state lawmakers increases NASAA's credibility and influence on behalf of SAAs.

NGA National Governors Association · National Conference of State Legislatures · rupri Rural Policy Research Institute · Education Commission of the States

You Can Help!

Download free advocacy tools at www.nasaa-arts.org/advocacy

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50 YEARS National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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