

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Artists form the foundation of a state’s creative environment. Artists act as creators and individual entrepreneurs who provide many of the products and designs that drive innovation and shape a state’s cultural character. Many artists also work as educators, providing training in creative skills and passing on cultural traditions from one generation to the next. State arts agencies (SAAs) support artists through a variety of grants and services.

**Grant funding:** State arts agencies invest nearly \$9 million in grants to individual artists. Both the number of grants and total dollars to individual artists have decreased during recessions. However, as a portion of all SAA grants, artists grants have held steady, making up about 3% of all grants and between 11% and 14% of all grant dollars during the last ten years.

Fellowships, awards that honor the achievements of artists and encourage the development of new creative works, are the most common type of grant support. These make up about one-quarter of individual artist grants and one-third of grant dollars. SAAs also provide grants for commissions, as well as project support for performances, exhibits, apprenticeships, professional development, instruction and residencies.

<b>State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists</b>	
Grant dollars awarded:	\$8,832,989
Share of all SAA grant dollars:	3%
Median grant size:	\$1,500
Number of grants awarded:	2,828
Share of all SAA grants:	12%
Artist fellowships grants	
Grant dollars awarded:	\$2,943,302
Number of grants awarded:	663
Median fellowship size:	\$5,000

**Programs and services:** In addition to direct financial support, states arts agencies provide services and information to assist artists. One important SAA goal is to broaden opportunities for artists to showcase their work. To this end, numerous SAAs maintain artist rosters, which promote performing artists and encourage their booking for residencies and touring. Many SAAs also offer galleries (both physical and virtual) and statewide art collections that encourage the display of art in public spaces. SAAs also offer training and networking services through conferences, workshops, and web seminars that assist artists with business development and connect them with peers. Information on topics such as health insurance, resource development and technology are also important SAA services.

**State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists**  
Fiscal Years 2000-2009

FY	Number of Grants	Percent of SAA Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of SAA Grant Dollars
2009	2,828	12%	\$8,832,989	3%
2008	2,782	12%	\$8,423,335	3%
2007	2,675	11%	\$7,988,333	3%
2006	2,908	11%	\$7,716,176	3%
2005	2,634	11%	\$7,699,008	3%
2004	2,688	11%	\$7,527,562	3%
2003	3,369	13%	\$10,180,799	3%
2002	3,865	14%	\$11,213,772	3%
2001	3,803	13%	\$11,847,748	4%
2000	3,513	12%	\$10,042,359	3%

## Individual Artist Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies

Fiscal Year 2009

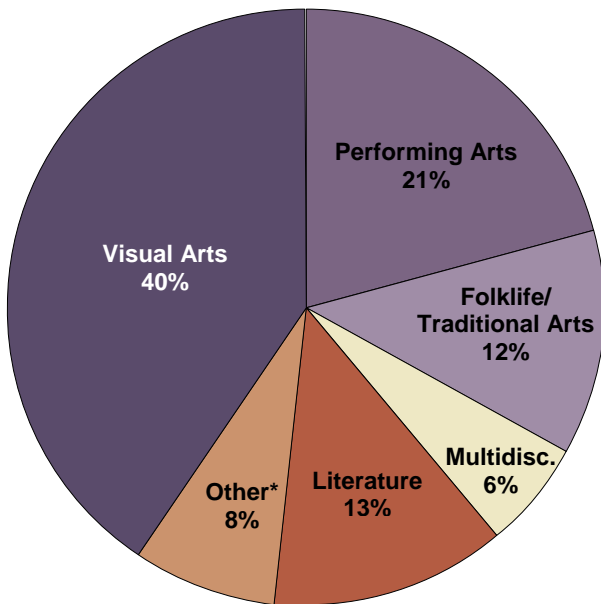
Grant Activity	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Dollars
Fellowships	663	23.44%	\$2,943,302	33.32%
Artwork Creation	253	8.95%	\$2,096,162	23.73%
Performances/Readings/Exhibitions	478	16.90%	\$1,033,071	11.70%
Apprenticeship	191	6.75%	\$378,113	4.28%
Arts Instruction	152	5.37%	\$376,923	4.27%
Professional Development	336	11.88%	\$265,166	3.00%
Other*	755	26.70%	\$1,740,252	19.70%

\* Other activities include residencies, marketing, fairs/festivals, equipment acquisition, publication, etc.

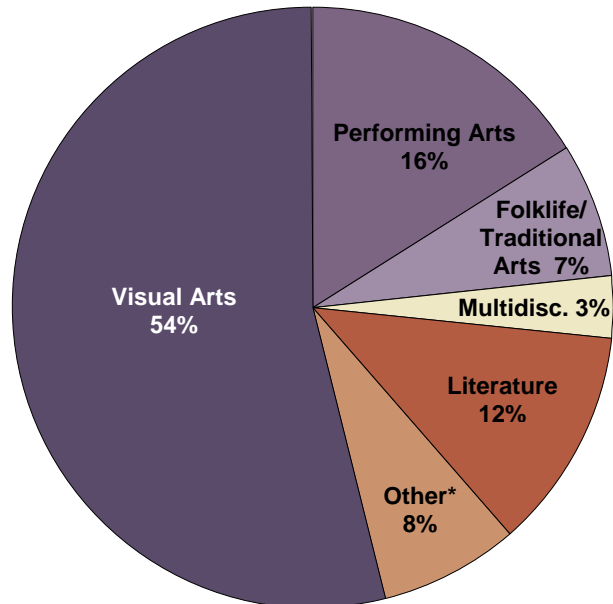
## State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

by Artistic Discipline  
Fiscal Year 2009

**Number of Grants**



**Grant Dollars**



\* Other artistic disciplines include media arts, interdisciplinary, and design.

Figures represent data from fiscal year 2009 or the most recent information available. Statistics reflect only grants awarded. They do not reflect other state arts agency programs and services, which in some instances make up a substantial portion of support for individual artists.

### National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Its mission is to strengthen state arts agencies by representing their individual and collective interests, empowering their work through knowledge and advancing the arts as an essential public benefit. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts, facilitating the transfer of ideas for members and partners.

This report draws on data from state arts agencies' final descriptive reports of grant-making activity submitted annually to the National Endowment for the Arts and NASAA. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202.347.6352, email [nasaa@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:nasaa@nasaa-arts.org) or visit [www.nasaa-arts.org](http://www.nasaa-arts.org). NASAA's collection of grant-making statistics is supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts.

