

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 currently invest about \$8 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 SAAs’ individual artist grants. SAAs also provide grants for commissions, as well as project support for performances, exhibits, apprenticeships, professional development, instruction and residencies.

Grant dollars awarded to artists:	\$8,287,141
Share of all SAA grant dollars:	3%
Median artist grant size:	\$1,800
Number of artist grants awarded:	2,505
Share of all SAA grants:	11%
Artist fellowships grants	
Grant dollars awarded:	\$2,245,870
Number of grants awarded:	538
Median fellowship size:	\$4,000

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 2001-2010

FY	Number of Grants	Percent of SAA Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of SAA Grant Dollars
2010	2,505	11%	\$8,287,141	3%
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%

Individual Artist Activities Funded by State Arts Agencies

Fiscal Year 2010

Grant Activity	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Dollars
Fellowships	538	21.48%	\$2,245,870	27.10%
Artwork Creation	355	14.17%	\$2,580,851	31.14%
Performances/Readings/Exhibitions	418	16.69%	\$1,053,031	12.71%
Apprenticeship	167	6.67%	\$330,777	3.99%
Arts Instruction	140	5.59%	\$403,634	4.87%
Professional Development	342	13.65%	\$325,905	3.93%
Other*	545	21.76%	\$1,347,073	16.25%

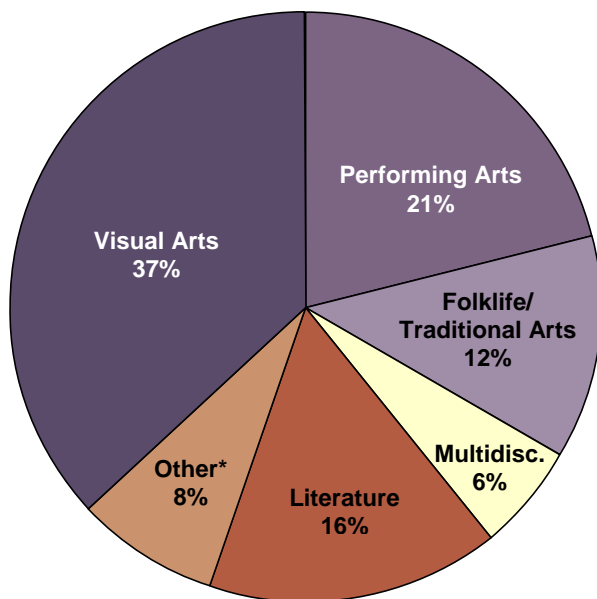
* Other activities include residencies, marketing, fairs/festivals, equipment acquisition, publication, etc.

State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists

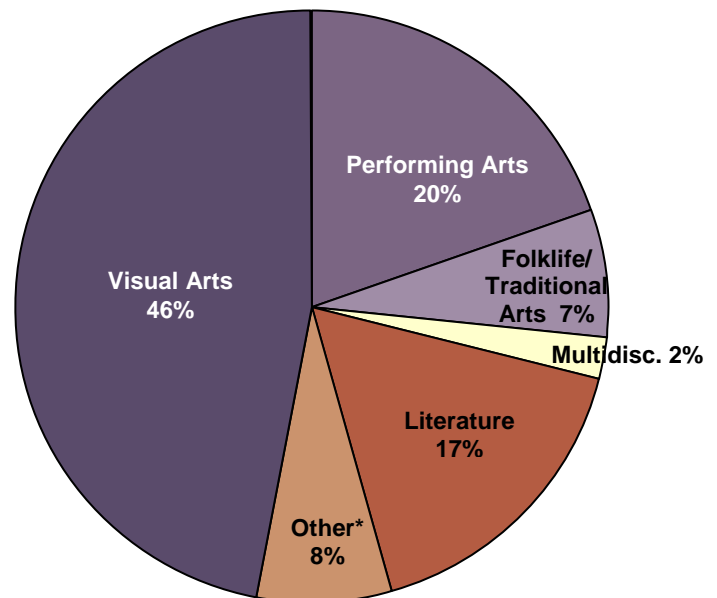
by Artistic Discipline

Fiscal Year 2010

Number of Grants



Grant Dollars



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

Figures represent data from fiscal year 2010 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) represents the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies and serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. 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 (NEA) and NASAA. NASAA's collection of grant-making statistics is supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the NEA. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202.347.6352, email nasaa@nasaa-arts.org or visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

National Assembly of
State Arts Agencies
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