

# 2026 State Arts Agency Grant Making Facts

## Arts Education

### Support for Arts Education

Lifelong arts learning is a top priority for state arts agencies (SAAs). Arts education in schools fosters young imaginations, addresses core academic standards and promotes the critical thinking and creativity skills essential to a 21st-century workforce. State arts agencies support in-school, after-school and out-of-school programs; early childhood arts learning; arts in higher education; and adult/senior programs through **grant making, services, research and partnerships and collaborations.**

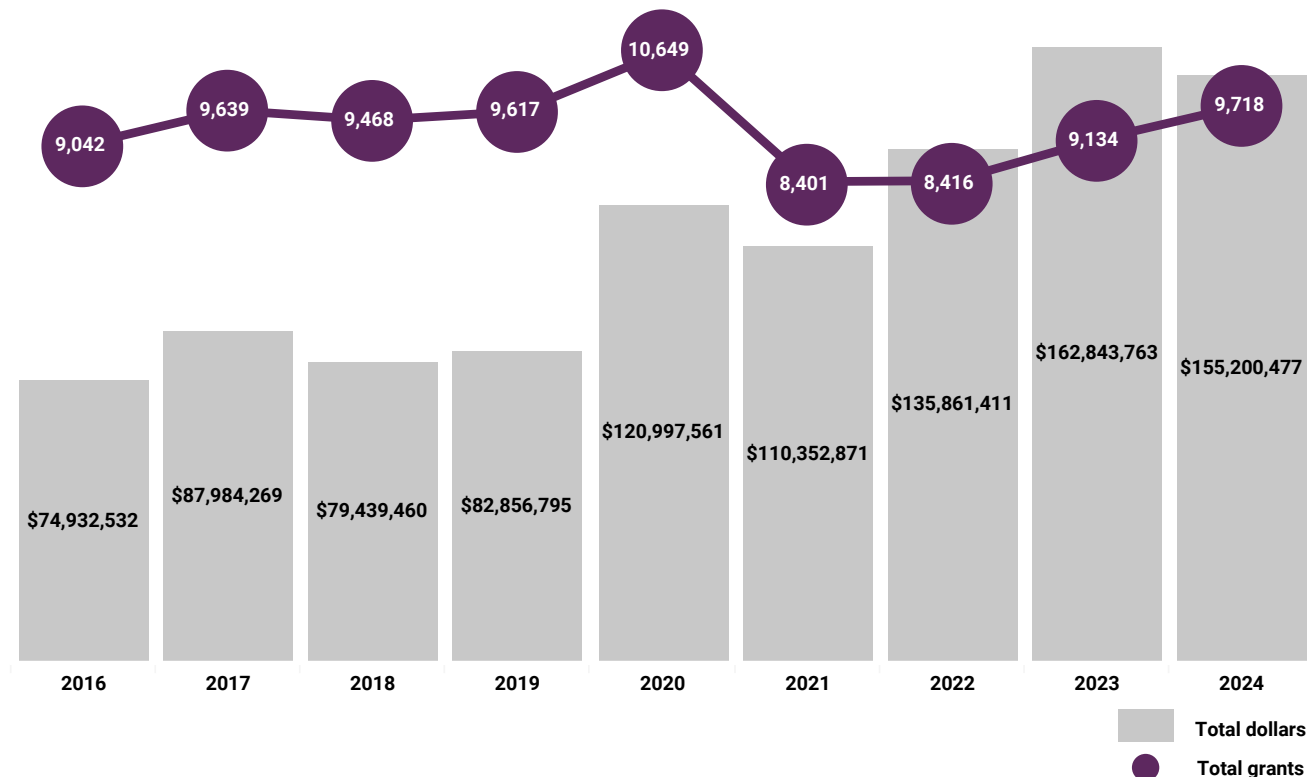
### Grant Funding for Arts Education

SAAs dedicate substantial resources to arts education through robust grant funding. Arts education grants comprise the largest share of overall SAA grants awarded. They support performances, exhibitions, residencies (school and nonschool), instruction and curriculum development. Arts education grants also support the design of assessment and evaluation tools and fund professional development programs. Over 30% of arts education grants each year go toward flexible organization operating support—dollars that are difficult to acquire through other grant programs.

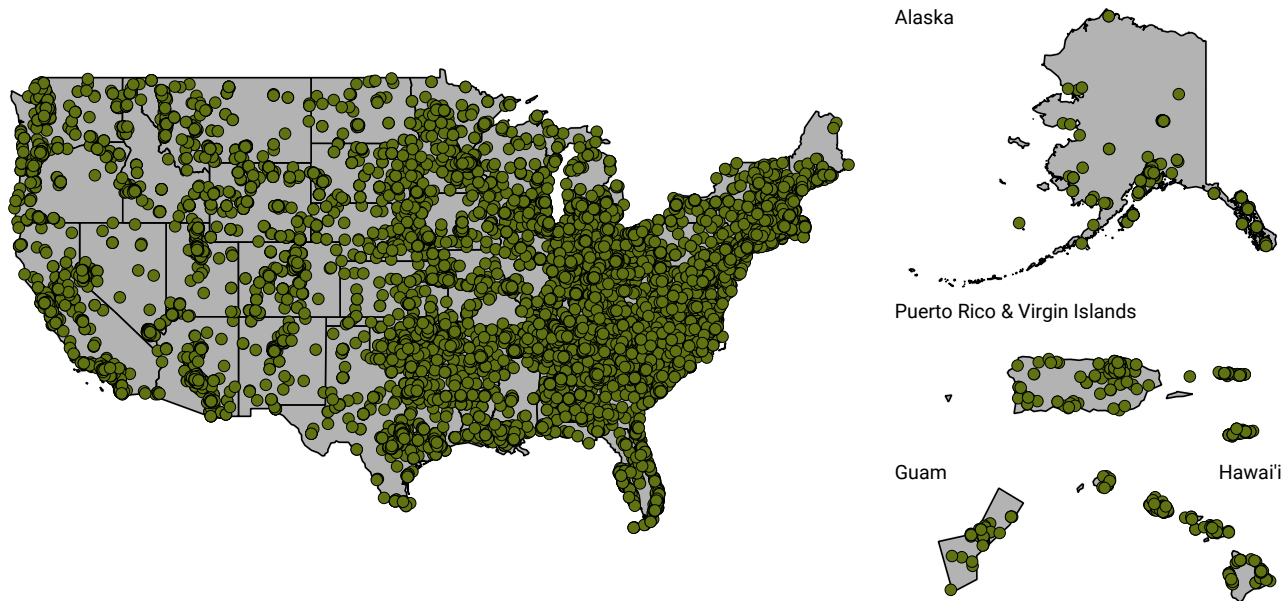
Total dollars awarded	\$155,200,477
Percentage of all grant dollars	22.7%
Number of grants awarded	9,718
Share of all SAA grants	29%
Median award size	\$6,886
Communities served*	5,933

\*Communities served is based on unique census tracts receiving grants or where activities took place.

### Arts Education Grant Making 10-Year Trend



## Arts Education Grant Locations FY2020-2024



### Arts Education Support

For more examples, visit NASA's [State State Arts Agency Innovations archive](#).

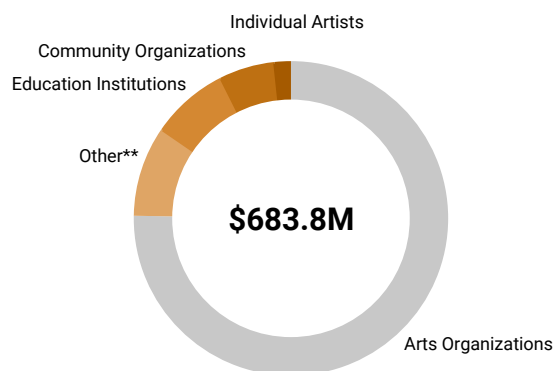
**Services:** SAAs provide extensive training and services to complement grant programs. Services geared toward teaching arts organizations focus on classroom management, resident teaching-artist training, and integrating arts with other core subjects. Other services are geared toward individual artists servicing educational settings.

**Research:** SAAs lead state level efforts to assess and monitor the status and condition of K-12 arts education by encouraging high-quality, evidence based research; ensuring that research is designed to inform policy; and communicating research results to decision makers and the public. This work is often done in partnership.

**Partnerships and collaborations:** SAAs cultivate program and policy collaborations with different partners including state departments of education, statewide arts education networks, statewide arts advocacy organizations, after-school alliances, institutions of higher education and teacher associations.

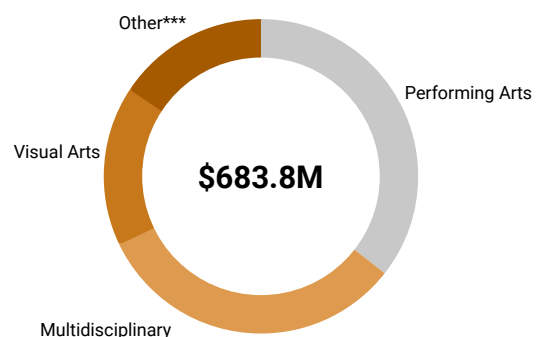
### What Do Arts Education Grants Support?

#### Types of Institutions Funded FY2020-2024



\*\*Other recipients include non-arts museums, historical societies and humanities councils.

#### Artistic Disciplines FY2020-2024



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

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 NASA. NASA'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](mailto:nasaa@nasaa-arts.org) or visit <https://nasaa-arts.org/>.