

2023 State Arts Agency Grant Making Facts

Individual Artists

Support for Individual Artists

Artists form the foundation of a state's creative environment. They 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. Awards to artists are supported through a mixture of federal funds, state funds and private dollars.

Grant Funding for Individual Artists

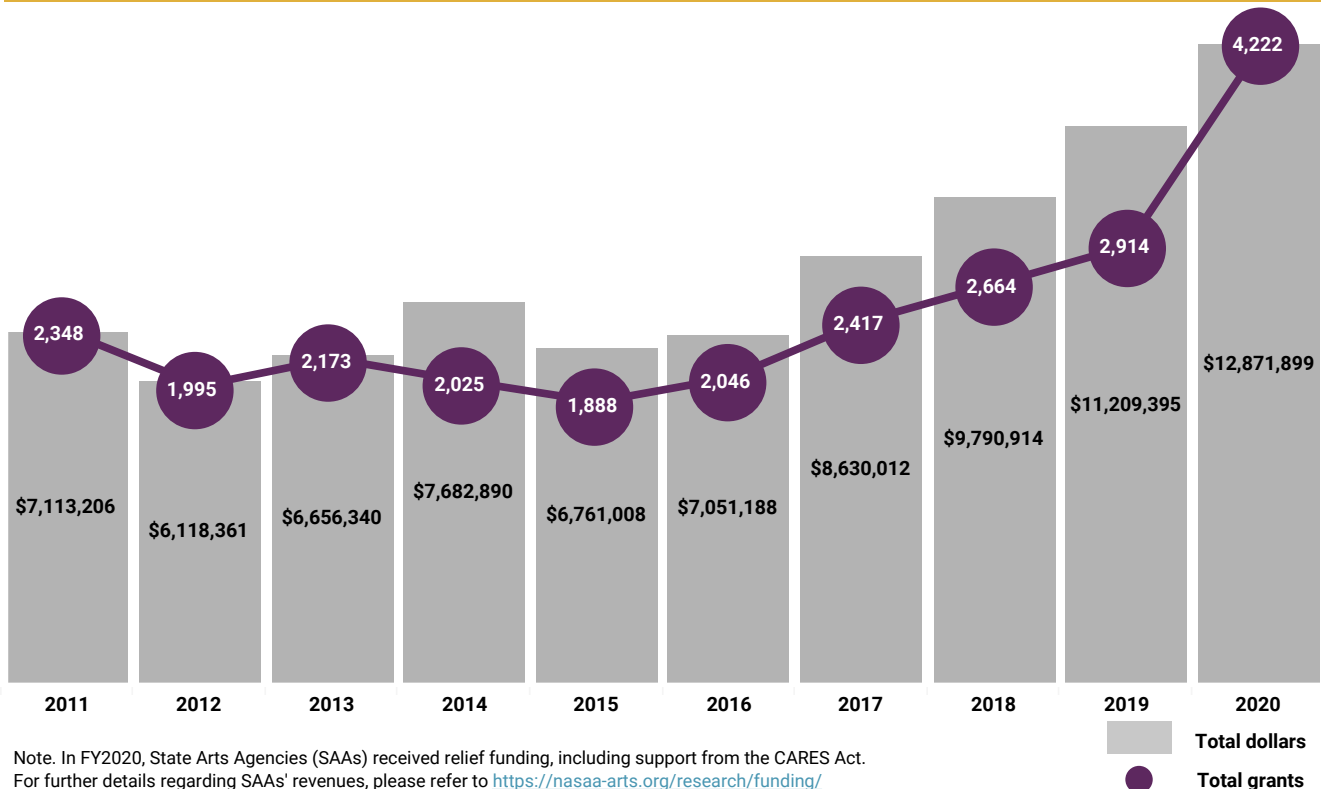
State arts agencies invested nearly \$13 million in grants to individual artists. This figure represents an increase of 81% from 2011, keeping pace with the growth of overall state arts agency grant making. Grants to individual artists as a proportion of all SAA grant portfolios average 15% of all grants and 3.6% of all grant dollars. These numbers should be interpreted as a minimum of SAA investments in individual artists, since they do not include SAA grants to intermediaries that state arts agencies engage to subgrant funds to artists. Also excluded from these figures are the numerous artists engaged by state and regional grants to organizations, a figure that totals more than 2 million annually.

State Arts Agency Grants to Individual Artists FY2020

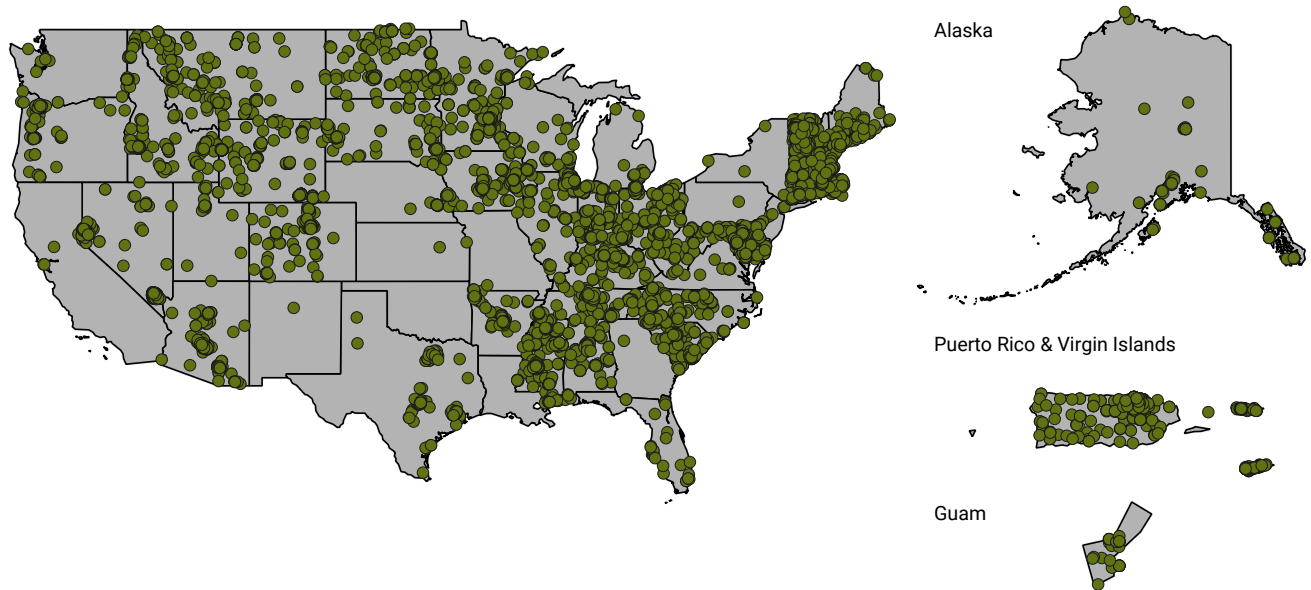
Total dollars awarded	\$12,871,899
Percentage of all grant dollars	3.6%
Number of grants awarded	4,222
Share of all SAA grants	15%
Median award size	\$1,500
Communities served*	1,961

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

Individual Artists Grant Making 10-Year Trend



Individual Artists Grant Locations FY2016-2020



Examples of State Arts Agency Support for Individual Artists

For more, visit NASAA's [State to State Article Archive](#).



Fellowship grants encourage the development of new creative works and advance artist careers. They are a common type of grant support and make up close to a third of SAAs' individual artist grants in terms of dollar amounts. Fellowship grants typically include public engagement requirements.

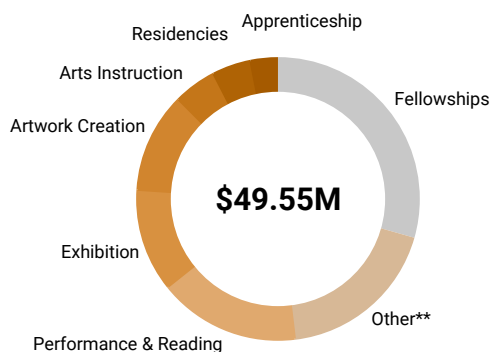
SAAs also provide grants for commissions, as well as project support for performances, exhibits, apprenticeships, professional development, instruction and residencies.



Programs and services: Beyond grant making, state 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 offer galleries (both physical and virtual) and statewide art collections that encourage the display of art in public spaces. Some SAAs also offer digital marketplaces, online platforms that facilitate marketing and product sales. SAAs further provide training and networking services through conferences, workshops and web seminars that assist artists with business development and connect them with peers.

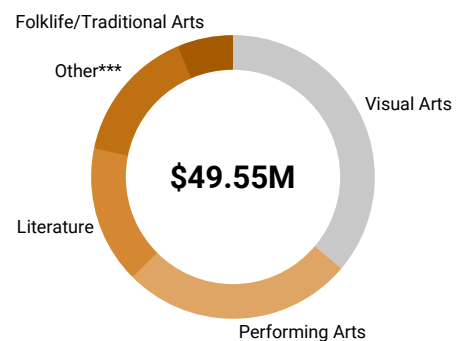
What Do Individual Artists Grants Support?

Activities Funded FY2016-2020



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

Artistic Disciplines FY2016-2020



***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 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 <https://nasaa-arts.org/>.