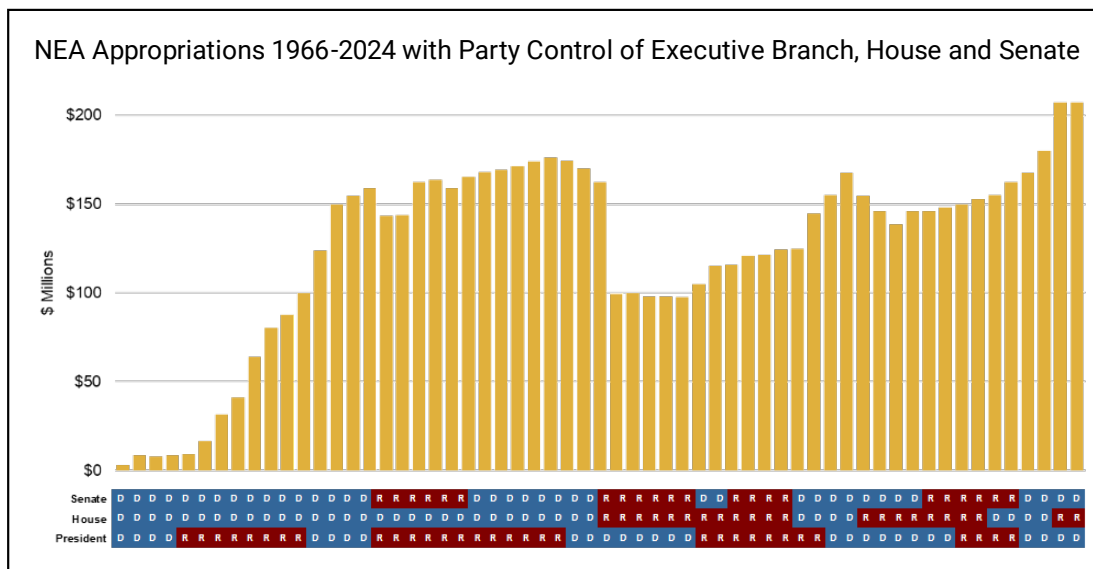




The Arts as a Nonpartisan Issue

*The arts strengthen the fabric of America's communities, help our national and local economies to flourish, improve education outcomes, contribute to good health, and preserve our cherished traditions. **Because these are consensus values, the arts are a nonpartisan issue that enjoys support across the political spectrum.***

The position of the arts as a nonpartisan issue is illustrated by data on federal appropriations to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) since its inception in 1966.



- ▲ In any partisan system, only those issue areas that earn the confidence of numerous lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can sustain support. This is the case with the arts. Over time, **appropriations for the NEA have grown under Republican majorities, Democratic majorities and split party control of Congress.**
- ▲ **Substantial increases in federal arts appropriations have occurred under presidents of both parties.** Since the NEA's inception, however, greater increases (an average of 12% per year) have occurred under Republican presidents. History shows that this is a recurring pattern regardless of which party has held the majority in Congress.
- ▲ Elected officials of all party affiliations—state and federal alike—appropriate funds to the arts because they know that **public dollars ensure broad access and leverage additional private and local investment.** For each \$1 in federal funds appropriated to the arts, grantees secure up to \$9 in matching funds.