



National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Request

- We urge Congress to provide at least \$155 million for the NEA in FY 2018.

Introduction

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provides direct federal funding to state arts agencies and to nonprofit arts institutions including museums. Its mission is to make art accessible to all and to provide leadership in arts education.

Established in 1965, NEA supports great art in every congressional district. Its grants to museums help them exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual material through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation and public programs. Grants are awarded for specific projects and require one-to-one matching funds provided by grant recipients.

For the past 7 years, NEA has also managed the Blue Star Museums program. Working in partnership with Blue Star Families and the US Department of Defense, the program provides free museum admission to military families all summer long. In 2016, the program served more than 923,000 active-duty military personnel and their families, enriching them with new experiences at more than 2,000 museums nationwide.

Talking Points

- In 2016, NEA provided more than 180 awards directly to museums, totaling more than \$5.4 million.
- Museum attendance continues to climb, increasing pressure to serve more people with limited financial and human resources.
- Receiving a grant from the NEA confers prestige on supported projects, strengthening museums' ability to attract matching funds from other public and private funders. On average, each dollar awarded by the NEA leverages nine dollars from other sources.
- The federal role of the NEA is uniquely valuable. No other funder—public or private—funds the arts in every state and the U.S. territories.
- Forty percent of NEA's grant funds are distributed to state arts agencies for re-granting.

Status

- The NEA is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill.
- The House of Representatives proposed \$149.8 million for NEA in FY 2017, while the Senate proposed \$148.4 million. It is currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

Funding History

	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 CR*	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Appropriation <i>(in millions)</i>	\$167.5	\$154.7	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$147.9	TBD

*In FY 2013, across-the-board sequestration cuts reduced NEA's effective funding to \$138.4 million.