

America Supports the Arts

Who's Who in Government Arts Funding



The **federal government** invests nearly \$150 million in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).



By law, 40% of NEA grant funds are allocated to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

The 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) receive most of their funds from **state government**. They combine \$368 million in state funds with NEA money to support broad public access to the arts.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) represents all the state arts agencies.



Counties and municipalities invest in the arts, spending an estimated \$827 million on local arts activities.

Local arts agencies are represented by Americans for the Arts. Many state arts agencies also are members.



Total Investment = \$1.3 billion



In addition to Partnership Agreement block grants to states and regions, the NEA awards about **2,400 federal grants** each year, primarily to arts organizations.



The 56 **SAAs award around 20,000 grants** in public funds each year. Grants are awarded to arts organizations, individual artists, civic groups and schools.



Local arts agencies spend their funds on a mixture of grassroots **grants** and **direct arts programs**, such as festivals, exhibitions, public art and community engagement activities.

Most SAAs belong to one of six **regional arts organizations** (RAOs). RAOs are nonprofit groups that use private, SAA and NEA funds for multi-state programs.



Who Benefits... and How?



Public arts funding reaches people in all geographies...



...and supports all art forms.

Government arts agencies ensure that the arts benefit **everyone**, regardless of identity, income, age or ability.



Education
Arts education spurs higher achievement and work force readiness.



Innovation
Public support for the arts fuels creativity and innovation.



Jobs
The creative industries employ more than 4.8 million workers.



Economy
The arts contribute \$730 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product.



Engagement
The arts spark civic involvement and volunteerism.



Place making
The arts bring public spaces to life and build community.



Health
The arts improve health outcomes for patients, including the military and the aging.



Leverage
Public funding for the arts leverages other forms of private and earned funding.

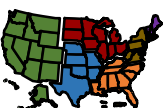
Who Makes the Case?



Advocates urge federal, state and local officials to support the arts and culture.



Most states have **citizen advocacy groups** that advocate for both federal and state arts support. Some also advocate locally.



Some **regional arts organizations** support advocacy at the federal and/or state levels.



NASAA advocates for federal support, with a focus on the policy interests of state arts agencies. NASAA also provides tools and skills to help SAAs make a case for state funds.



Americans for the Arts mobilizes advocacy at all three levels of government and also organizes the State Arts Action Network (SAAN), the affinity group for state citizen advocacy groups.

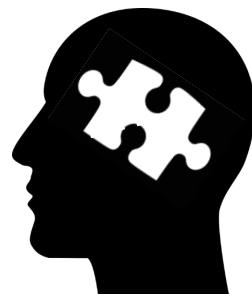


National arts service organizations advocate for NEA funding and issues of importance to their disciplines.



To send the U.S. Congress a **unified advocacy message**, national arts organizations formed a coalition called the Cultural Advocacy Group (CAG).

Federal, state and local lawmakers also need **neutral brokers of information and policy advice**.



NASAA and Americans for the Arts make sure that decision makers' networks have the facts about cultural policy alternatives and their impacts.

The Arts Education Partnership (AEP) is a coalition of 100+ education, arts, business, and philanthropy groups managed by the **Education Commission of the States**. The U.S. Department of Education and the NEA are lead investors.

NASAA helped to create the AEP and serves as an AEP advisor. Many CAG members also participate.

You Can Help

The most important advocate for public arts support is you!

- You Can Shape Policy:** Action steps for showing your support
- Advocacy Tools:** Handy tips and research
- Why Should Government Support the Arts?** Talking points and answers to frequently asked questions about public support

- Follow NASAA's Legislative Alerts
- Join the conversation
- Visit www.nasaa-arts.org
- Ask NASAA for help