



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

Request:

- Support \$180 million for the National Endowment for the Arts for FY2011.

Introduction:

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the principal source of federal support for non-profit arts institutions and provides significant funding for museums. Its mission is to assist arts organizations in being accessible to all Americans, to promote artistic excellence, and to provide leadership in arts education. Established in 1965, NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. Its grants help museums exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual material through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation, services to the field, and public programs. Grants are awarded for specific projects and require at least a one-to-one match from the recipient.

Talking Points:

- In 2009, NEA made 138 awards to museums for a wide variety of projects. Funds were also awarded in the 2009 stimulus package to 36 museums, expressly for the purpose of saving jobs. Museum jobs cover many professions, including curators, registrars, educators, fund-raisers, finance officers, administrators, exhibition designers and builders, security officers, and more.
- Many museums have reduced staff and budgets as a result of the recession, which has hit non-profit arts particularly hard. Despite the recession, however, attendance is up, causing increased pressure to serve more people with fewer staff and smaller budgets.
- Receiving an award confers prestige and increased credibility 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 seven dollars from other public and private sources.
- Forty percent of NEA's grant funding is distributed by formula to state arts agencies for re-granting. The NEA makes awards in every state and every congressional district.

Status:

Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts is determined annually in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The President's FY11 budget request included \$161.3 million for NEA.

Funding History:**National Endowment for the Arts**

	FY 2003 enacted	FY 2004 enacted	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 enacted	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 enacted	FY 2009 enacted	FY 2010 enacted	FY 2011 proposed
Appropriation (in millions)	\$104.8	\$115.7	\$121	\$121.3	\$124.4	\$144.7	\$155	\$167.5	\$161.3