INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) support our cultural heritage, including efforts by communities around the country to tell a fuller American story and engage people with history in compelling ways.

Background

The NEA provides Americans in every congressional district the opportunity to experience and participate in the arts. Since 1965, NEA has awarded more than $5 billion in grants, which have been distributed in all fifty states. Each dollar of federal investment leverages up to $9 in private and other public funds. The NEH has distributed approximately 64,000 grants for education, research, preservation, and other public programs in the humanities.

FY 2021 Appropriations Request

Please support $170 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and $170 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities in the FY 2021 Interior Appropriations bill.

National Endowment for the Arts

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities
ACCOUNT: National Endowment for the Arts
ACTIVITY: Grants and Administration

Recent Funding History:
FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $152.849 million
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $155 million
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $162.250 million
FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $30.175 million
FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $170 million

National Endowment for the Humanities

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities
ACCOUNT: National Endowment for the Humanities
ACTIVITY: Grants and Administration

Recent Funding History:
FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $152.849 million
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $155 million
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $162.250 million
FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $33.419 million
FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $170 million

JUSTIFICATION: NEA and NEH investments promote access to the arts and advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities for all Americans. The federal commitment to the arts and humanities spurs innovation, promotes economic development, and helps tell our nation’s many diverse stories.
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

NEA and NEH in Action at National Trust for Historic Preservation Sites

Support from the National Endowment for the Arts has created programs like Art and Shadows at the Shadows-on-the-Teche in Louisiana that put regionally-based artists in residence at the site, resulting in programming that attracted new audiences and served as a prototype for broader arts-focused programming that now draws people from around the country to the town’s downtown commercial district.

National Endowment for the Humanities support has brought teachers from around the country to learn about history in the places that it was made and to carry those experiences back to their classrooms, such as exploring the intellectual underpinnings of the Constitution at James Madison’s Montpelier or discovering the rich, but largely unknown, African American history in the President’s neighborhood at Decatur House.

For additional information, contact Christine Grubbs, Associate Manager of Government Relations, CGrubbs@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6115.

PHOTOS BY GORDON BEALL (WOODLAWN), PAUL BURK (POPE-LEIGHLEY)

In January 2020, Woodlawn (right) and Pope-Leighey House (left) received an NEA grant to support “Creators and Cultivators: Engaging a Community to Design a New Trail for Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House.” This project will bring together artists, landscape designers, agriculturalists, architects, historians, place-makers, and community activists to create a plan for contemporary art trail that both ties together the sites and serves the larger community. Located in Fairfax County, VA, both of these sites are owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.