

GRANTMAKERS IN THE ARTS
ANNUAL ARTS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

**Foundation Grants to Arts
and Culture, 2021**
A One-Year Snapshot

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**Public Funding
for the Arts 2023**

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Grantmakers in the Arts
Supporting a Creative America

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A One-Year Snapshot

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In 2021, giving by all active U.S. private and community foundations grew approximately 12%. Among the largest U.S. independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations included in Candid's 2021 Foundation 1000 dataset, overall giving rose 5% among a matched subset of funders. Arts and culture funding among this matched subset increased an identical 5%, and the field continues to represent an important, albeit lesser priority for foundations.

Highlights

These key findings represent GIA's twenty-second snapshot of foundation giving for arts and culture. The definition of arts and culture used for this snapshot is based on Candid's Philanthropy Classification System and encompasses funding for the performing arts, museums, visual arts, multidisciplinary arts, humanities, historical activities, arts services, folk arts, public arts, and cultural awareness. The findings presented in this snapshot are based on an analysis of two closely related datasets. The analysis of the distribution of 2021 arts and culture giving uses the latest Foundation 1000 dataset, while the analysis of changes in foundation giving for the arts between 2020 and 2021 uses a matched subset of foundations that are consistent between the Foundation 1000 for each of those two years.

Foundation funding the arts held steady as a share of total dollars in 2021.

Among funders included in Candid's Foundation 1000 dataset, giving for arts and culture totaled \$3.5 billion, or 7% of overall grant dollars. This share was consistent with 2020, although notably less than the roughly 11% of foundation grant dollars that funded the arts as recently as a decade ago.

Arts funding increased at the same pace as overall giving in 2021.

Arts grant dollars rose 5% among a matched subset of Foundation 1000 funders, consistent with overall growth reported by these matched funders. At the same time, the number of arts and culture grants reported by matched funders decreased by 4%. However, this decline was consistent with a 4% reduction in the overall number of grants reported

and may reflect a return to more typical levels of support following exceptional giving by foundations in response to needs arising during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The size of the median arts grant increased.

The median arts and culture grant amount increased from \$30,000 in 2020 to \$35,000 in 2021. Nonetheless, this median amount totaled markedly less than the nearly \$49,000 median overall grant amount.

Large grants accounted for more than three-fifths of arts grant dollars.

Arts grants of \$500,000 or more captured 64% of overall grant dollars for arts and culture in 2021, up slightly from 62% in 2020.

Relative to overall foundation giving, a larger share of arts grant dollars provided general support.

In 2021, general operating support accounted for 32% of arts and culture grant dollars. This share surpassed the 26% share of overall foundation giving that funded general operating support in that year.

Top arts funders accounted for a larger share of overall giving.

The top twenty-five funders, by giving amount, provided 44% of the total arts dollars in Candid's 2021 Foundation 1000 dataset, surpassing the 42% share reported for 2020. Nonetheless, the share of arts giving accounted for by the top funders has remained relatively consistent for the past decade.

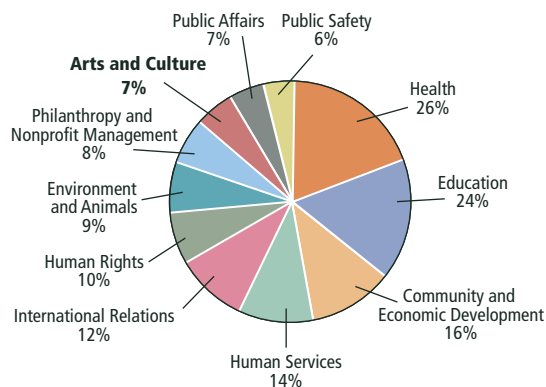
It is important to keep in mind that the foundation grantmaking examined here presents only one source of arts financing. It does not examine arts support from earned income, governments, individual donors, or the business community. This analysis also looks only at foundation arts support for nonprofit organizations, and not for individual artists, commercial arts enterprises, or informal and unincorporated activities.

Specific Findings

Overall foundation grant dollars for the arts.

The foundations included in Candid's 2021 Foundation 1000 dataset awarded 20,509 arts and culture grants totaling \$3.5 billion, or 7% of total grant dollars (figure 1). This share of grant dollars has been consistent since 2019. However, roughly a decade

FIGURE 1. Percentage of grant dollars by major field of giving, 2021



Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all U.S. private and community foundations. Includes areas of giving representing at least 5% of grant dollars. Grants may support multiple issue areas and would therefore be counted more than once.

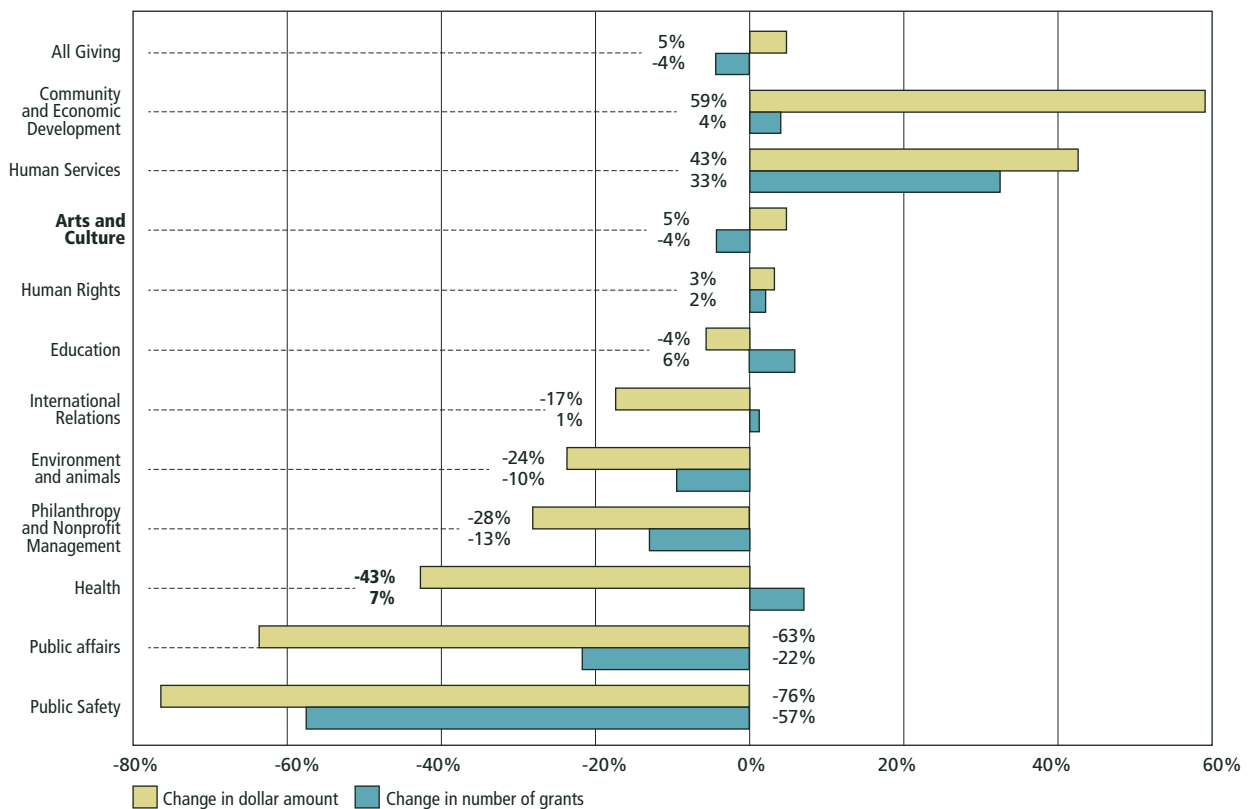
earlier, support for arts and culture represented about 13% of overall foundation grant dollars.

Among a matched subset of 820 funders, grant dollars for the arts increased 5% between 2020 and 2021, consistent with the 5% rise in grant dollars overall. Of the top-ranked subject areas by grant dollars, community and economic development showed by far the fastest growth in grant dollars. In contrast, several areas that experienced rapid growth in funding in 2020 in response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — e.g., public safety and public affairs — experienced marked reductions in giving in the latest year (figure 2).

The impact of exceptionally large grants.

Every year and in all funding areas, a few very large grants can skew overall totals, creating distortions in long-term grantmaking trends. In 2021, 24 arts and culture grants provided at least \$10 million, and instances where these grants had a notable impact on grantmaking patterns are identified throughout this analysis. Yet, despite the potential fluctuations caused by these exceptional grants,

FIGURE 2. Change in giving by major field of giving, 2020 to 2021



Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a matched subset of 820 foundations. Includes areas of giving representing at least 5% of grant dollars. Grants may support multiple issue areas and would therefore be counted more than once.

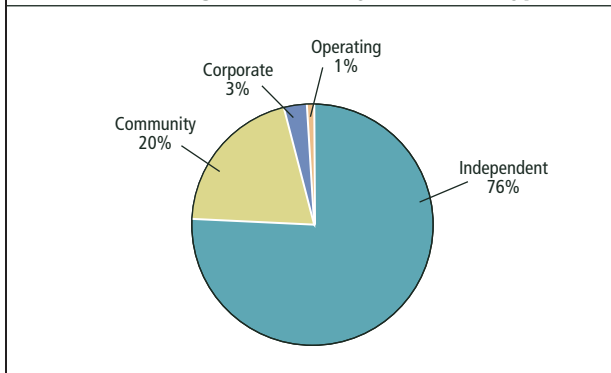
Candid data in all fields have always included them, providing consistency over time. (In addition, Candid provides statistics based on share of number of grants, which are not skewed by exceptionally large grants.)

Community foundations represent an important source of support for arts and culture.

In 2021, community foundations provided one-fifth (20%) of Foundation 1000 grant dollars (figure 3) and two-fifths (40%) of the number of foundation grants for arts and culture. Actual arts grant dollars from community foundations totaled \$688.2 million. Community foundations ranked second only to independent and family foundations by shares of grant dollars and grants and far surpassed the shares provided by corporate and grantmaking operating foundations.

Grants by Arts Subfield

FIGURE 3. Arts grant dollars by foundation type, 2021



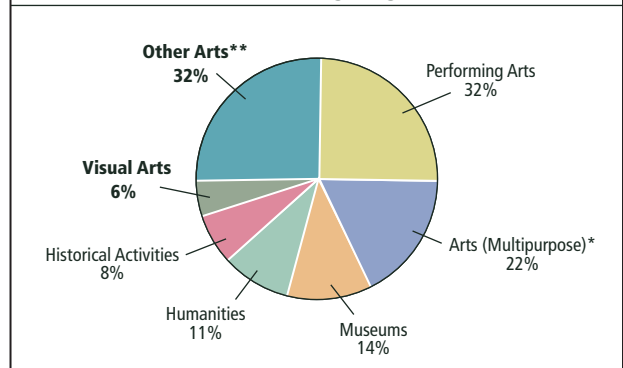
Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all U.S. private and community foundations.

Funding for the performing arts accounted for almost one-third (32%) of all foundation arts and culture dollars in 2021 (figure 4), far surpassing the share reported for museums (14%). Moreover, for the first time in 2021, museums ranked third by share of grant dollars, following multidisciplinary arts (22%). By comparison, from the late 1990s to the early 2000s and several times in recent years (2010, 2013, and 2014), museums surpassed the performing arts by share of grant dollars. The shifts in share of funding for museums have generally been due to factors such as the entry onto the scene of new and large arts funders, extraordinarily large grants, the contribution of valuable art collections, and/or new capital projects at museums.

Giving to performing arts.

Between 2020 and 2021, grant dollars for the performing arts increased 14% among a matched subset of funders, while the number of grants declined 3%. A total of 7,765 grants were awarded for the performing arts by foundations in the set — three times the number awarded for museums. In general, the median performing arts grant tends to be smaller in size than the median museum grant (\$30,000 versus \$45,000 in 2021). The largest

FIGURE 4. Arts and culture, giving to subfields, 2021



Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all U.S. private and community foundations. Includes areas of giving representing at least 5% of grant dollars. Grants may support multiple issue areas and would therefore be counted more than once. *Includes support for multidisciplinary centers, arts councils, artist's services, arts administration, arts exchange, and arts education (excluding performing arts education). **Includes unspecified support for arts and culture, as well as giving for folk arts, public arts, and cultural awareness.

share of giving to the performing arts supported performing arts centers and theaters. The largest performing arts grant in the latest sample was a \$90 million capital grant from the Bloomberg Family Foundation to the World Trade Center Performing Arts Center. Included within the performing arts is support for performing arts education, which totaled \$178.1 million in 2021. This included a \$50 million grant from the Crankstart Foundation to the Julliard School for the music advancement program. (See "Giving to multidisciplinary arts" below for a figure on foundation grant dollars supporting other types of arts education.)

Giving to multidisciplinary arts.

The share of arts giving for multidisciplinary arts climbed to 22% in 2021, up from 17% in 2020 and 12% in 2019. Among a matched subset of funders, grant dollars for multidisciplinary arts increased by 18%, while the number of grants rose 6%. Within multidisciplinary arts, arts education (excluding performing arts education) accounted for the

largest share of 2021 funding, with grant dollars totaling \$342.4 million (44%). General services to arts organizations, including facilities or touring assistance, followed with roughly one-third of multidisciplinary support (\$254.8 million).

Giving to museums.

In 2021, museums benefited from 2,572 grants totaling \$476 million awarded by funders included in the Foundation 1000 dataset. Roughly one-third of this funding supported art museums. Among a matched subset of funders, grant dollars allocated to museums declined 25% between 2020 and 2021, while the number of grants decreased 16%. The largest museum grant in 2021 was a \$12 million operating support award from the Broad Art Foundation to The Broad. By comparison, the largest 2020 museum grant totaled \$50 million.

Giving to humanities.

The humanities benefited from 1,648 grants totaling \$377.9 million in 2021 from funders included in the Foundation 1000 dataset. Funding for this field accounted for 11% of arts grant dollars in 2021, down from 12% in 2020 and 13% in 2019. Among a matched subset of funders, grant dollars awarded for the humanities decreased 9% in 2021, while the number of grants dipped 1%.

Giving to historical activities.

Grant dollars for historical activities jumped 39% among a matched subset of funders between 2020 and 2021, although the number of grants decreased 4%. Overall, historical activities benefited from 1,283 grants totaling \$267.2 million in 2021.

Giving to visual arts.

The visual arts and architecture benefited from \$226.8 million from Foundation 1000 funders in 2021. Among a matched subset of funders, grant dollars for the visual arts decreased 2% between 2020 and 2021 and the number of grants declined 3%.

Grants by Support Strategy

An important caveat to report with regard to the allocation of foundation dollars by specific support strategy is that for about 7% of arts grant dollars in the 2021 Candid sample, the support strategy could not be identified. This means that modest differences in percentages may not be reliable. (The grant records available to Candid may lack the information necessary to identify the support strategy, especially if the source of data is the 990-PF tax

Table 1. Distribution of grants by support strategy, 2021

Support strategy	Dollar amount	%	No. of grants	%
Capacity-building and technical assistance	109,403,252	3.1	349	1.7
Capital and infrastructure	526,008,594	14.9	1,411	6.9
Building acquisitions	1,500,000	0.0	2	0.0
Building and renovations	203,609,071	5.8	400	2.0
Capital campaigns	72,164,284	2.1	271	1.3
Collections acquisitions	10,328,529	0.3	58	0.3
Collections management and preservation	62,184,136	1.8	196	1.0
Equipment	9,457,280	0.3	144	0.7
Facilities maintenance	5,330,637	0.2	3	0.0
Information technology	12,921,153	0.4	42	0.2
Land acquisitions	6,607,775	0.2	13	0.1
Rent	107,388	0.0	1	0.0
Other capital and infrastructure	181,707,805	5.2	343	1.7
Financial sustainability	226,401,510	6.4	872	4.3
Annual campaigns	39,057,858	1.1	59	0.3
Debt reduction	691,000	0.0	6	0.0
Emergency funds	10,313,060	0.3	38	0.2
Endowments	91,056,404	2.6	88	0.4
Fundraising	7,744,599	0.2	141	0.7
Sponsorships	455,000	0.0	8	0.0
Other financial sustainability	80,682,919	2.3	542	2.6
General support	1,132,748,432	32.2	7,863	38.3
Individual development and student aid	96,041,754	2.7	494	2.4
Leadership and professional development	37,915,450	1.1	171	0.8
Network-building and collaboration	76,585,813	2.2	257	1.3
Policy, advocacy, and systems reform	77,570,501	2.2	401	2.0
Advocacy	16,643,124	0.5	99	0.5
Coalition building	25,000	0.0	1	0.0
Equal access	50,269,789	1.4	272	1.3
Ethics and accountability	2,724,554	0.1	6	0.0
Grassroots organizing	1,047,500	0.0	7	0.0
Public policy and systems reform	7,211,686	0.2	19	0.1
Other policy, advocacy, and systems reform	16,304,054	0.5	85	0.4
Publishing and productions	274,046,711	7.8	1,817	8.9
Product and service development	260,740	0.0	7	0.0
Program development	1,618,362,151	46.0	9,124	44.5
Public engagement and marketing	142,860,027	4.1	644	3.1
Research and evaluation	79,053,713	2.2	267	1.3
Other specified strategies	60,499,784	1.7	131	0.6
Not specified	236,100,413	6.7	1,731	8.4
Total	3,519,666,890	100.020	20,509,100.0	

Source: candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all U.S. private and community foundations. Grants may support multiple support strategies and would therefore be counted more than once.

return, which tends to be less complete than other forms of grant reporting.)

Table 1 provides a breakdown of specific support strategies within the larger support categories and lists both the specific dollar value and number of grants made in each type. However, it is important to keep in mind that this table includes only grants of \$10,000 or more awarded to organizations by a sample of 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundation by total giving.

The arts compared to other fields of foundation giving.

The three largest categories of support tracked by Candid are program support, general operating support, and capital support.

Program support accounted for the largest share of arts grant dollars in 2021 (46% of all arts funding). Special programs and projects typically receive one of the largest shares of arts and culture grant dollars and grants. The same is true in most of the major fields, such as health and education, where program support consistently accounts for one of the largest shares of funding.

General operating support accounted for the second largest share of arts grant dollars in 2021 (32% of all arts funding) and exceed the share of overall funding in the Foundation 1000 providing general support (26%). By share of number of grants, close to two-fifths (38%) of arts grants provided unrestricted support. Although, this share was matched by giving overall.

Grants by Grant Size.

Median grant size.

The median or “typical” grant amount for arts and culture in 2021 was \$35,000, up from \$30,000 in 2020. However, this amount fell well below the

median amount for all foundation grants (\$48,900). This is the seventh consecutive year that the median arts grant amount has exceeded \$25,000.

Small and midsized grants.

Close to three-fifths (57%) of all arts grants in the 2021 sample were for amounts between \$10,000 and \$49,999 (table 2), down slightly from the 2020 share (59%). By comparison, the share of midsized arts grants (\$50,000 to \$499,999) increased modestly, from 35% of arts grants in 2020 to 37% in 2021.

Large grants.

The share of larger grants (\$500,000 and over) remained consistent at roughly 6% of the total number of grants in 2021. Although, their share of total grant dollars accounted for a slightly bigger 64%. Overall, funders in the Foundation 1000 sample made 79 grants of \$5 million and over in 2020, up from 74 grants in 2020.

The single largest arts and culture grant included in the 2021 Foundation 1000 set was the Mellon Foundation’s \$115 million award to the Tides Center to support Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY), a three-year, \$125 million investment in the financial stability of New York State artists and the organizations that employ them. CRNY provides guaranteed income and employment opportunities for 2,700 artists whose primary residence is in New York State and seeks to “catalyze systemic change in the arts and cultural economy, recognize the value of artists’ contributions, and reshape society’s understanding of artists as workers who are vital to the health of...communities.”

The twenty-five largest arts funders.

The top twenty-five arts and culture funders by giving amount provided 44% of the total arts dollars in Candid’s 2021 sample (table 3), exceeding the 42% share recorded in 2020. Overall, the share of giving accounted for by the top twenty-five arts funders has fluctuated between roughly 30% and 40% since the end of the 1990s.

Top foundations by share of arts giving out of overall giving.

Among funders included in the Foundation 1000 that committed high percentages of their grant dollars to arts and culture, many were smaller (table 4). Of the top one hundred foundations ranked by share of arts giving out of overall giving, over two out of five (42 funders) gave less than \$5 million in total arts grant dollars in 2021.

TABLE 2. Arts grants by grant size, 2021

Grant range	No. of grants	%	Dollar amount	%
\$5 million and over	79	0.4	971,704,345	27.6
\$1 million – under \$5 million	516	2.5	898,992,075	25.5
\$500,000 – under \$1 million	641	3.1	396,032,728	11.3
\$100,000 – under \$500,000	4,119	20.1	792,510,068	22.5
\$50,000 – under \$100,000	3,484	17.0	217,695,647	6.2
\$25,000 – under \$50,000	4,585	22.4	142,999,582	4.1
\$10,000 – under \$25,000	7,085	34.6	99,732,445	2.8
Total	20,509	100.0	3,519,666,890	100.0

Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all US private and community foundations.

TABLE 3. Twenty-five largest arts and culture funders, 2021

Rank	Foundation	State	No. of arts grants	Arts grant dollars	Total grant dollars	Arts as % of total dollars	Arts capital support dollars*	Arts other support dollars*
1.	Mellon Foundation	NY	310	405,995,140	\$510,761,003	79.5	\$47,406,000	\$357,404,140
2.	Bloomberg Family Foundation	NY	47	130,311,512	1,055,638,439	12.3	96,005,000	33,987,401
3.	Ford Foundation	NY	245	122,846,250	978,345,887	12.6		122,846,250
4.	Chicago Community Trust	IL	375	88,053,233	1,364,214,076	6.5	2,278,757	84,495,326
5.	Ebor Charitable Trust	WY	2	63,464,425	104,044,425	61.0		63,464,425
6.	Crankstart Foundation	CA	49	58,408,105	254,432,963	23.0		7,408,105
7.	Columbus Foundation	OH	490	58,369,122	184,721,674	31.6	8,354,682	50,014,440
8.	Eli and Edy Broad Foundation	CA	8	52,878,740	126,277,313	41.9		52,878,740
9.	Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	NY	135	49,003,824	110,837,990	44.2		49,003,824
10.	David Geffen Foundation	CA	12	45,950,000	102,421,572	44.9		45,950,000
11.	Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation	MI	11	41,312,115	121,702,420	33.9	4,739,850	36,572,265
12.	California Community Foundation	CA	338	36,381,325	398,256,972	9.1		36,381,325
13.	Aramont Charitable Foundation	CA	10	36,010,059	36,010,059	100.0		36,010,059
14.	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	382	34,412,498	2,662,756,931	1.3	312,043	8,822,073
15.	Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta	GA	352	33,077,320	112,517,918	29.4		33,077,320
16.	Kinder Foundation	TX	21	32,491,244	49,879,686	65.1	30,136,244	2,355,000
17.	Barr Foundation	MA	65	31,941,315	115,925,015	27.6	200,000	30,978,125
18.	Grainger Foundation	IL	20	31,645,389	63,224,730	50.1	22,066,583	9,578,806
19.	Crawford Taylor Foundation	MO	1	30,100,000	58,487,200	51.5		30,100,000
20.	Shubert Foundation	NY	486	26,510,000	29,961,000	88.5		26,510,000
21.	John Templeton Foundation	PA	67	26,254,613	146,525,517	17.9		24,113,343
22.	Howard Gilman Foundation	NY	287	25,846,100	30,195,050	85.6	875,000	24,971,100
23.	William & Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	201	25,518,921	521,271,084	4.9	1,720,000	20,561,508
24.	Ahmanson Foundation	CA	58	25,513,800	60,617,650	42.1	19,352,800	6,121,000
25.	Walton Family Foundation	AR	60	25,378,598	664,081,786	3.8	9,262,971	12,833,127
	Total		4,032	\$1,537,673,648	\$9,863,108,360	15.6	\$242,709,930	\$1,206,437,702

Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all US private and community foundations.

* Grants may support multiple types of support strategies, e.g., a museum building project and artist residencies, and would therefore be counted more than once. Figures include only grants with sufficient descriptive information to be coded for specific strategies.

Capital support accounted for the third largest share of arts grant dollars. Similar to general support, the share of grant dollars allocated for this type of support was also higher for arts and culture (15%) than for grants overall (6%). Grants for capital support are larger on average than awards for program and general operating support, and exceptionally large capital grants can have a pronounced effect on the distribution of funding by support strategy.

Giving for International Cultural Exchange.

Grant dollars supporting international culture exchange were up 40% between 2020 and 2021 among a matched subset of funders. The number of grants they awarded increased by a more modest 5%. In 2021, foundations awarded 74 grants related to international cultural exchange totaling \$13.4 million. Among these awards was a \$50,000 grant from the Bader Philanthropies to Jerusalem Culture Unlimited to pilot studio residencies for early-career East Jerusalem visual artists at the Paley Art Center.

Steven Lawrence is an independent consultant who partners with foundations and philanthropy-serving organizations to document critical trends in the field. Among many reports he has authored in collaboration with GIA are Arts Funding at Twenty-Five: What Data and Analysis Continue to Tell Funders About the Field and Recalculating the Formula for Success: Public Arts Funders and United Arts Funds Reshape Strategies for the Twenty-First Century.

NOTES

1. See *Giving USA 2023: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2022*.
2. See <https://taxonomy.candid.org/>.
3. Candid's 2021 Foundation 1000 dataset includes all grants of \$10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. independent and family, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations by total giving. For community foundations, the set includes only discretionary grants and donor-advised grants (when provided by the funder). The set excludes grants to individuals. It accounts for approximately two-fifths of giving by all active U.S.-based private and community foundations. Grant amounts may represent the full authorized amount of the grant or the amount paid in that year, depending on the information made available by each foundation.
4. Each year the set of funders included in the Foundation 1000 changes modestly, which could distort year-to-year fluctuations in funding targeting specific issue areas. To account for these potential distortions, the analysis examines changes in giving based on a subset of 820 funders for which the Foundation 1000 includes 2020 and 2021 data.

TABLE 4. Top thirty-five foundations by share of arts giving out of overall giving, 2021

Rank	Foundation	State	Type*	No. of arts grants	Arts grant dollars	Total grant dollars	Arts as % of total dollars	Arts capital support dollars**	Arts other types of support dollars**
1.	Aramont Charitable Foundation	CA	IN	10	36,010,059	\$36,010,059	100.0		\$36,010,059
2.	Colburn Foundation	CA	IN	49	8,388,289	8,388,289	100.0		8,388,289
3.	Terra Foundation for American Art	IL	IN	120	8,281,514	8,281,514	100.0		8,281,514
4.	Nasher Foundation	TX	OP	1	4,910,000	4,910,000	100.0		4,910,000
5.	Jerome Foundation	MN	IN	29	2,186,300	2,196,300	99.5		2,186,300
6.	Broad Art Foundation	CA	OP	1	12,000,000	12,080,000	99.3		12,000,000
7.	Roy Lichtenstein Foundation	NY	OP	8	3,730,150	3,755,150	99.3	\$1,592,650	2,137,500
8.	Shs Foundation	NY	IN	58	3,993,200	4,043,200	98.8		3,993,200
9.	Dunard Fund USA Ltd.	IL	CS	9	25,130,000	25,585,000	98.2		25,130,000
10.	J. Paul Getty Trust	CA	OP	86	17,685,910	18,276,410	96.8	3,713,500	13,972,410
11.	Walt and Lilly Disney Foundation	CA	IN	4	6,740,200	6,975,200	96.6		6,740,200
12.	Arison Arts Foundation	FL	IN	29	19,368,551	20,131,051	96.2		19,368,551
13.	Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation	NY	IN	12	5,434,910	5,674,910	95.8		5,434,910
14.	Philecology Foundation	TX	IN	1	1,927,494	2,027,494	95.1	1,927,494	
15.	Holland Foundation	NE	IN	74	17,057,709	18,162,072	93.9		17,057,709
16.	Shubert Foundation	NY	IN	486	26,510,000	29,961,000	88.5		26,510,000
17.	Packard Humanities Institute	CA	OP	13	8,674,309	9,842,309	88.1	1,800,000	300,000
18.	Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts	NY	IN	142	12,564,108	14,539,108	86.4		9,767,108
19.	Howard Gilman Foundation	NY	IN	287	25,846,100	30,195,050	85.6	875,000	24,971,100
20.	Avenir Foundation	CO	IN	5	4,424,351	5,487,070	80.6	1,000,000	3,424,351
21.	Mellon Foundation	NY	IN	310	405,995,140	510,761,003	79.5	47,406,000	357,404,140
22.	James Annenberg La Vea Charitable Foundation	PA	IN	16	7,899,884	10,128,057	78.0		7,899,884
23.	Florence Gould Foundation	NY	IN	19	4,964,215	6,380,819	77.8	1,046,850	3,717,365
24.	Sidney E. Frank Foundation	NY	IN	38	12,766,936	17,025,986	75.0	290,000	12,476,936
25.	Kovner Foundation	FL	IN	36	18,894,672	25,339,023	74.6		18,884,672
26.	Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation	MO	IN	56	5,863,149	8,170,649	71.8	500,000	3,625,899
27.	Sakana Foundation	CA	IN	29	6,870,000	9,607,954	71.5	3,025,000	3,725,000
28.	Kinder Foundation	TX	IN	21	32,491,244	49,879,686	65.1	30,136,244	2,355,000
29.	Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation	CA	IN	18	4,840,000	7,543,000	64.2		4,840,000
30.	Anna and John J. Sie Foundation	CO	IN	8	2,618,500	4,136,857	63.3	2,546,000	60,000
31.	Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation	TX	IN	49	6,440,099	10,291,099	62.6		6,440,099
32.	T. Rowe Price Foundation	MD	CS	54	8,421,684	13,703,684	61.5		8,421,684
33.	Ebor Charitable Trust	WY	IN	2	63,464,425	104,044,425	61.0		63,464,425
34.	Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust	NM	IN	8	3,128,000	5,168,681	60.5	2,060,000	1,068,000
35.	Wyncote Foundation	PA	IN	128	15,131,280	25,273,110	59.9	2,835,820	12,295,460

Source: Candid, 2024. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest foundations representing approximately two-fifths of total giving by all US private and community foundations.

* IN = Independent; OP = Operating; CS = Corporate

** Grants may support multiple types of support strategies, e.g., a museum building project and artist residencies, and would therefore be counted more than once. Figures include only grants with sufficient descriptive information to be coded for specific strategies.

NOTES continued

- 5. The median — meaning that half of the grants are above and half are below the amount — is generally acknowledged to be a more representative measure of the typical grant than the mean or “average,” because the median is not influenced by extreme high and low amounts.
- 6. Includes support for multidisciplinary centers, arts councils, artist’s services, arts administration, arts exchange, and arts education.

- 7. Includes support for art history, history, classical and foreign languages, linguistics, literature, and philosophy.
- 8. Includes support for commemorations, genealogy, historic preservation, and war memorials.
- 9. Prior to 2015, the median amount had remained consistent at \$25,000 since the early 1990s.
- 10. See <https://www.creativesrebuildny.org/>.

Public Funding for the Arts 2023

Mohja Rhoads, Nakyung Rhee, and Ryan Stubbs

Public funding for the arts in the US is sourced from federal, state, and local government channels. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) receives congressional allocations. State Arts Agencies (SAAs) receive legislative appropriations from respective states and jurisdictions and the federal government. Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) draw upon local, state, and federal resources. Collectively, the NEA, SAAs, and LAAs represent the network of public funding agencies entrusted with the distribution of grants and services to artists and cultural organizations nationwide.

After a downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic, public funding for the arts experienced a rebound in FY2022. Fueled by federal relief packages and recovering economies, this growth continued into FY2023 despite inflationary pressures. State arts agencies are set for an average 16.5% increase in total appropriations, with several states reaching record highs. The National Endowment for the Arts saw an increase of \$27 million, exceeding the previous year’s budget by 15%. Local arts agencies anticipated a 32.7% surge in total revenue, buoyed by federal pandemic relief funds and local government support.

FY2022 and FY2023 offered an encouraging outlook for publicly funded arts agencies. However,

sustainable arts funding momentum in the years ahead hinges on all levels of government managing potential fiscal challenges and growing demands for services of all types, including access to the arts.

Early projections for FY2024 indicate decreases in arts funding as pandemic relief funds wind down. However, the aggregate funding levels would still be higher than pre-pandemic times. The potential slowdown in FY2024 requires proactive initiatives for long-term sustainability, acknowledging inflation adjustments and strategizing for future challenges as the post-pandemic landscape evolves.

2023 Funding Levels

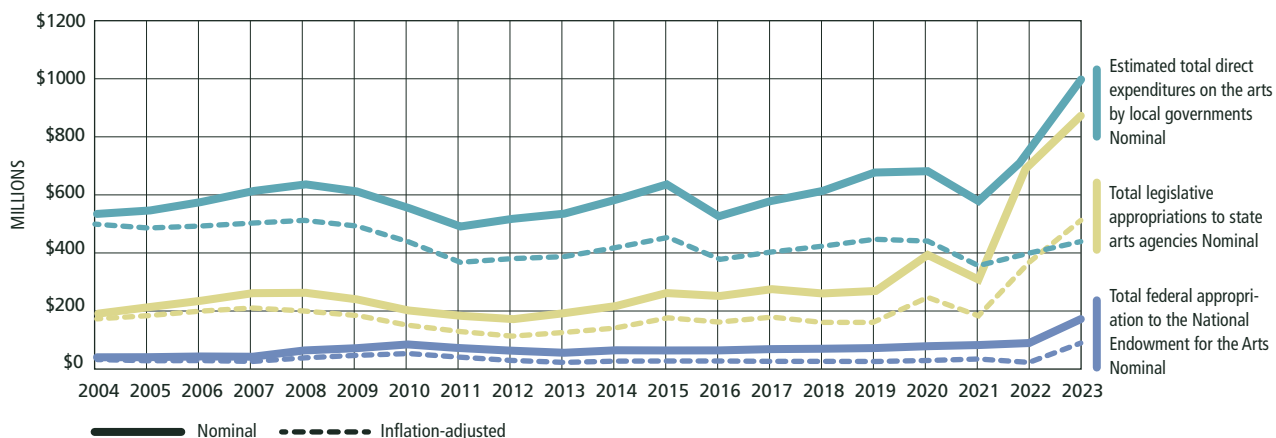
In fiscal year 2023, federal, state, and local funding for the arts totaled \$2.28 billion for an aggregate per capita investment of \$6.83. The FY2023 breakdowns are as follows:

- The NEA received \$207 million in appropriations representing an increase of 15% from FY2022.
- SAAs received \$971 million in legislative appropriations representing an increase of 16.5% from FY2022.
- LAAs received \$1.1 billion in funds in 2023 representing an increase of 32.7% from FY2022

Trends over Time

The fiscal year 2023 witnessed a significant surge in overall arts funding. This increase can be attributed to better-than-expected economic conditions and continued pandemic relief spending — particularly the American Rescue Plan (ARP)

FIGURE 1. Federal, state, and local government arts funding, nominal and inflation adjusted dollars, 2004–2023



Federal, state, and local government arts funding, nominal and inflation-adjusted dollars, 2004–2023. Inflation-adjusted figures are represented by corresponding lines below each source. Inflation adjustments are calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures with a base year of 2001.

Act. The NEA and state arts agencies were instrumental in distributing \$135 million from the ARP Act, passed in March 2021. These funds, with 40% directed to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, flowed to communities through state-level arts relief programs. Recipients have until December 31, 2024, to obligate the funds and until the end of 2026 to spend the allocated resources. Beyond the NEA, the ARP Act contributed \$350 billion in aid to states and localities, with many directing these funds to arts organization and artist relief. Per NASAA's FY2024 Legislative Appropriations Preview, 10 states allocated \$173.6 million in FY2023 supplemental funding to state arts agencies, and six states earmarked \$74 million for FY2024.

While aggregate public funding for the arts had been steadily, albeit moderately, increasing before the pandemic, the sector experienced a downturn in FY2021. However, the resilience of state and local economies, coupled with continuous expenditure of federal relief funding, led to a record-high appropriation for SAAs in FY2022 at \$833 million — a 106.8% increase from FY2021. Favorable fiscal conditions extended into FY2023, with an average 19.9% increase in appropriations for SAAs, even excluding additional line-item funding or other ARP allocations.

Allocations to the NEA have steadily increased due to consistent federal support. In FY2023, the NEA received \$207 million, marking a 15% increase from the previous year. A \$1.7 trillion government funding package cleared by Congress in December 2022 further boosted arts and humanities, public

libraries, and museums, including the increase for the NEA.

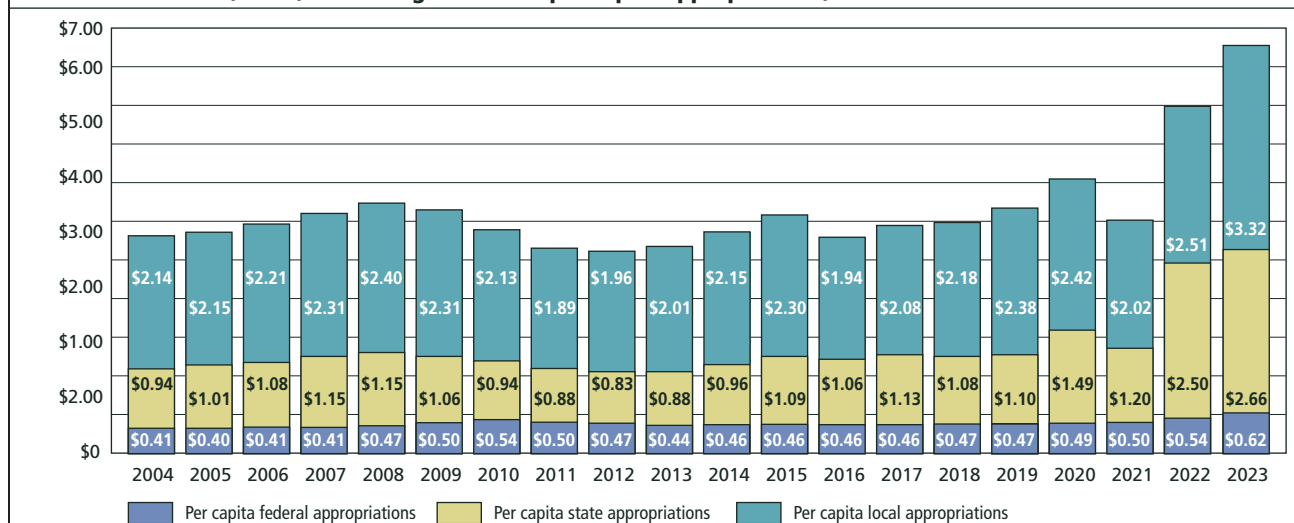
According to Americans for the Arts (AFTA), their survey of the LAAs in 60 Largest U.S. Cities revealed that LAAs anticipated substantial revenue increases in FY2023 exceeding \$1 billion for the first time due to a confluence of factors. Early federal pandemic relief programs such as Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provided crucial financial support, with some ARP Act funds still contributing to 2023 budgets. Rising inflation and costs underscored the need for additional support to sustain operations for arts organizations and artists, especially in live performing arts.

When adjusting for inflation, total FY2023 public arts funding increased by 6% relative to 2001 dollars for the first time. Robust state arts support yielded a remarkable 24% increase in inflation-adjusted, aggregate appropriations. This is an encouraging development, marking the first increase, in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars for states, since 2001. Despite not reaching their record high level relative to inflation, the NEA appropriation rose 14% above the previous year. LAAs, although achieving a record high level of total revenue, experienced a 7% decrease in funding relative to 2001 dollars.

Serving a Growing Population

Examining public arts funding on a per capita basis, which accounts for population growth, provides insight on whether investment is keeping pace with

FIGURE 2. Federal, state, and local government per capita appropriations, 2004–2023



community needs. Since funding comes from all taxpayers, per capita metrics are an important evaluation tool. In 2023, combined federal, state, and local funding equaled \$6.83 per person, a 23.1% increase from 2022. Broken down, the federal contribution was \$0.62, the state portion \$2.90, and local \$3.32. Adjusting for inflation and population growth, the total investment per capita dropped to a modest \$3.94 in 2023, a 43% decrease in real dollars. This reveals that, despite recent funding increases, the declining value of the dollar along with population growth has strained the ability of public arts appropriations to match the support to community demand.

Looking Forward

Overall economic growth in FY2024 is anticipated to be slower due to dwindling federal pandemic aid and projected to decline slightly by 1.8% from FY2023's high baseline. Despite the expected and realized slowdown in revenue growth during FY2024, many states maintain a positive outlook for their fiscal positions, attributing it to the prior gains achieved from 2021 to 2023. Favorable tax collections have led to revenue levels nearing historic highs, accompanied by sturdy rainy-day funds and reserves. Nevertheless, conditions vary across states, posing challenges for policymakers as they balance competing priorities and transition to normal budgeting processes with waning federal pandemic aid.

The exhaustion of federal relief aid appears to impact total appropriations for state arts agencies. Data collected from state arts agencies through NASAA's annual revenue survey indicates that SAAs will be seeing a 24% decrease in appropriations for FY2024. This decline is primarily attributed to a 46% decline in line items, with larger-budget states like California and New York experiencing reductions of more than 33%. This reduction is influenced by the one-time appropriations from federal or state pandemic aids in the prior fiscal year. 12 states report decreases in their FY2024 appropriations, with median percent decrease of 25%. On the other hand, 39 states reported increases in appropriations, with some states experiencing more than a 70% increase.

At the time of this publication, the funding level for the NEA in FY2024 remains unresolved as two funding proposals have emerged from Congress. In November 2023, Congress approved a short-term

appropriations bill that extended current funding for the National Endowment for the Arts until February 2, 2024. Passage of this legislation came just two days before funding for all federal agencies was set to expire. Congressional impasses remain. NASAA and other arts service organizations and advocates, including Grantmakers in the Arts (GIA) and AFTA, continue to advocate for NEA funding and monitor progress. NASAA Legislative Council Isaac Brown's Federal Updates will provide information on the situation as it evolves. Data and resources such as this report can help educate the public and legislators about the factual and important connections between communities and federal funding for the arts.

This report provides a preliminary forecast until the latest data becomes available. Anticipating the NEA and LAA appropriation will closely align with those of the prior year, the arts sector is expected to experience a 10% decrease in the total funding. This decrease is mainly due to the exhaustion of federal pandemic aid, and the reporting methodology for appropriations in the year they are allocated also affecting the totals. Also, it is notable that this appropriation total is 57% higher than the pre-pandemic record high in FY2020 (without adjusting for inflation).

The Federal, State, and Local Landscape: A closer look

When it comes to arts and culture, the needs of underserved communities can often only be met through public sector funding. Because philanthropic and foundation giving to the arts has been found to be geographically disproportionate and concentrated in large awards, the public sector serves an important role in delivering funds and programs to rural and underfunded communities as well as smaller organizations. Public sector funding can also ensure that public investment aligns with public interest and flexibly responds to communities in times of need.

Public funding of the arts requires all three levels of government: Federal, State, and Local. Just like how the road, rail, and airway systems across the US need coordination across all levels of government, the arts too require integration. Federal, state, and local governments form a symbiotic relationship in ensuring arts can be accessed in all communities.

Federal Funding Supporting State, Local, and Private Investments

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) makes federal investments that serve as catalysts for public and private support. The budget for the NEA constitutes .003% of the federal budget. From this budget, the NEA devotes 40% of its program funds to state and regional arts agencies helping to fund state priorities, incentivizing state investments, and leveraging additional funds at the local level. 60% of the NEA's program budget results in direct grants to nonprofit organizations. On average, the NEA awards 2,300 direct grants to small and medium-sized organizations (budgets up to 2 million) in every Congressional District in the country. Reaching approximately 4,000 communities, these grants support projects that deliver to audiences who might not otherwise have access to arts programs (35% of grants go to high poverty communities; 11% to rural communities).

State Arts Agencies

FY2020 — the most recent year for which a full complement of data was available at time of publication—state arts agency revenue combined was near \$600 million. NEA contributions accounted for 7% of the revenue while state appropriations accounted for 86%. State arts legislative appropriations represented, on average, 0.049%

of state general fund expenditures. From FY2020 revenues, state arts agencies awarded 29,765 grants to organizations.

In FY2020, 41% percent of SAA grant dollars funded operating support for arts organizations. Operating support grants provide flexible and unrestricted funding to grantees and SAAs are critical in delivering this support because it is not available through the NEA and many communities will not have philanthropic support or local arts agencies that can provide operational support. In FY2020, state arts agencies reached 3,688 communities through operating support grants with a median award of \$7,013.

Operating support grants reach many small and rural organizations and communities. For FY2020, 85% percent of GOS grants were awarded to organizations with budgets under \$1 million and 23% of these organizations were located in a rural setting.

The National and State Granting Overlap

From FY2016–FY2020, 3,204 grantees benefited from both NEA and SAA/RAO funding receiving 32,979 awards amounting to \$609 million from SAAs/RAOs and \$335 from the NEA. Seventy-four percent of NEA direct grantees also received awards from SAAs/RAOs and 11% of SAA/RAO

FIGURE 3. Geographical distribution of GOS grants by large and small organizations, 2020

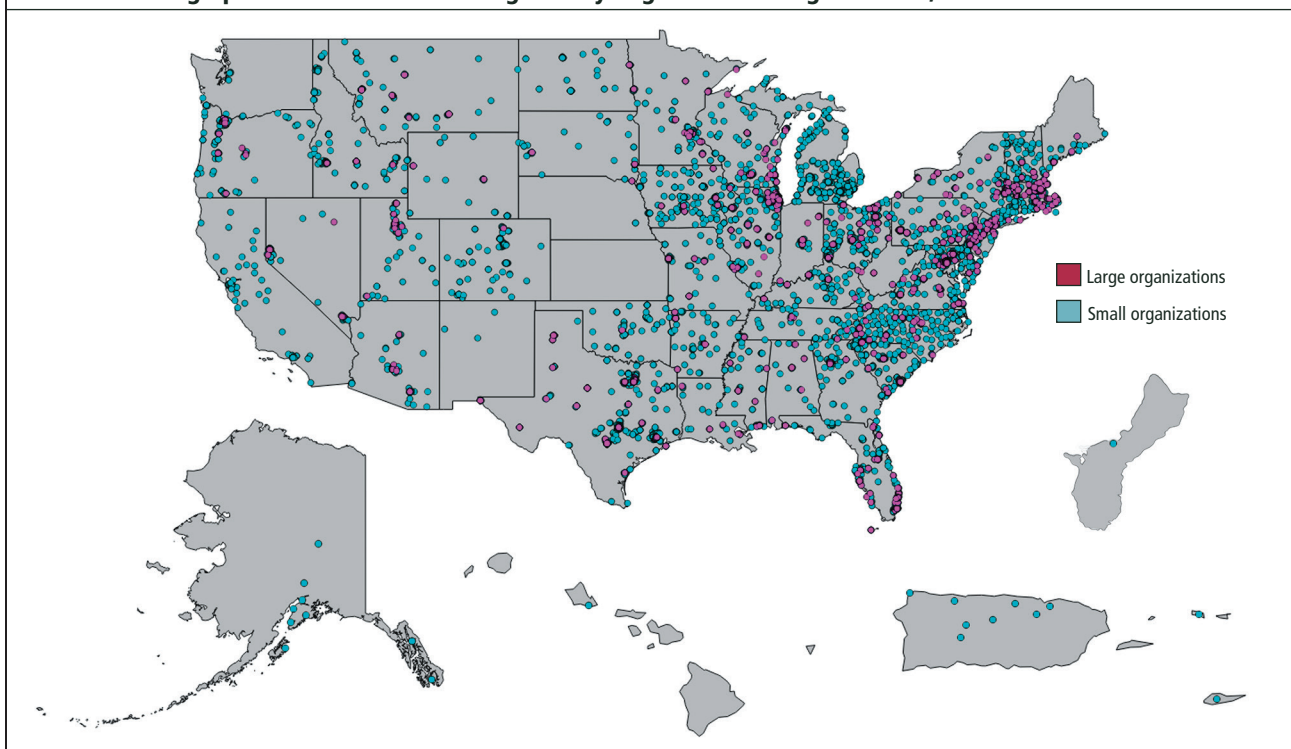
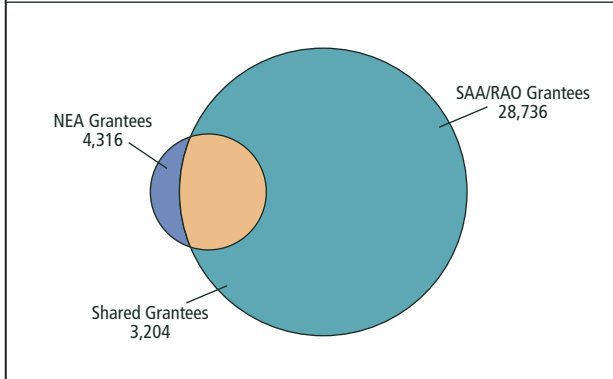


FIGURE 4. National and state shared grantees, 2020

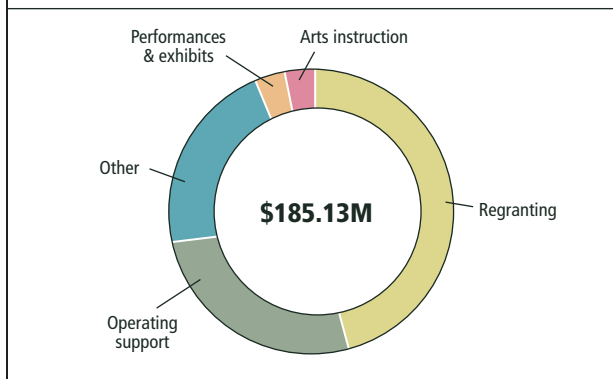


grantees also received NEA direct grants. 3,306 communities were reached in 726 counties across 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Local Arts Agencies

Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) are an essential component of the public funding triad. LAAs use a blend of public and private funds to promote grassroots arts programs and deliver arts to communities across the US. For 2019, 30% of LAAs were branches of municipal or county governments while the remaining 70% were incorporated as private, nonprofits. The largest source of LAA revenue comes from local governments (28%). The second largest source is contributed income in the form of corporate support, private donations, and grants (27%) followed by earned income (23%), and then

FIGURE 5: SAA support for LAA activities, FY2016–FY2020



state and federal funds (12%). For context, 9.4% of state arts agency total revenues came from federal sources in FY2019, a figure which decreased to 4% in FY2023.

For FY2020, SAAs invested almost \$40 million in local arts agencies for a total of 1,516 grants. For FY2016–FY2020, 1,497 grantees received funds from both the NEA and SAAs for a total of \$53 million. In FY2020, most local arts agency awards went towards regranting into local communities.

All Three Levels of Government Are Necessary

Local government support alone can't fully support the arts. There are about 4,500 local arts agencies throughout the US, yet there are nearly 91,000 local governments, including counties, municipalities, townships, special districts, and school districts. Only a small percentage of LAAs serve multiple counties or cities and many local arts agencies have very small budgets or are purely all-volunteer. Public arts in many communities depend on investments from state arts agencies and the NEA serves as an investment catalyst for state arts agencies.

It takes three levels of government — federal, state, and local — to ensure that all communities can benefit from the arts. A symbiotic relationship exists amongst all three levels, each of which contributes critical funds, leadership, knowledge, and partnerships.

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NOTES

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