National Endowment for the Arts
Grants Workshop

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Director of Design and Creative Placemaking

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THE NEA ANNUALLY SUPPORTS
~ 2,100 GRANTS IN ALL 50 STATES,
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND
U.S. TERRITORIES.
NEA Funds
Nonprofit Organizations
Local arts agencies
Official units of state or local government
School districts
Colleges & universities
Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes

Does NOT Fund
• General operating support
• Creation of new organizations
• Academic degrees
• Facility construction, purchase, or renovation
• Individuals (except in Literature)
• Individual schools
• Commercial, for-profit enterprises
• Fiscal sponsors
Eligibility

- Nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations
- Units of state or local government
- Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes

- Three-year history of arts programming
- 1 to 1 non-federal cost share/match (minimum)
- Meet reporting requirements
Application Review

• Level 1: Peer review panels
  o Artistic excellence
  o Artistic merit

• Level 2: National Council on the Arts

• Level 3: Chairman
NEA Funding Categories

• Partnership agreements

• Grants for organizations
  o Art Works
  o Challenge America
  o Our Town
  o Research: Art Works

• Grants for individuals
  o Creative writing fellowships
  o Translation projects

Generally, one application per organization per year
State and Regional Partnerships
Art Works

• Submit to one of 15 artistic disciplines
  o Grants include funding for creation, presentation/exhibition, education, and services to the field

• Two application deadlines:
  o February and July

• Grants generally range from $10,000 to $100,000
NEA's Program Disciplines

- Artist Communities
- Arts Education
- Dance
- Design
- Folk & Traditional Arts
- Literature
- Local Arts Agencies
- Media Arts
- Museums
- Music
- Musical Theater
- Opera
- Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works
- Theater
- Visual Arts
Challenge America

- Projects extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations
- Deadline in April
- Grants are all $10,000.
Our Town

Creative placemaking projects
Applicants must be partnerships between
  - a nonprofit design or cultural organization
  - a local government entity

Annual opportunity in September
Grants generally range from $25,000 to $200,000
www.arts.gov/exploring-our-town/
Individuals: Literature Fellowships

• Fellowships for individuals in the areas of:
  o Creative Writing (Poetry & Prose)
    ▪ March deadline
    ▪ Non-matching grants are for $25,000
  o Translation
    ▪ December deadline
    ▪ Non-matching grants are for $12,500 or $25,000
Research

• Research: Art Works grants support research that investigates the value and/or impact of the arts

• NEA releases research publications and analyses on topics affecting artists and arts organizations
Application Process

Registration:

• System for Awards Management (SAM): www.sam.gov (please note: an original, signed notarized letter stating that you are the authorized Entity Administrator is now required before your registration will be updated or renewed)
• Grants.gov, required portal for all federal grants: www.grants.gov

Part 1: Submit the SF-424 to Grants.gov
• The appropriate SF-424 form can be found via a direct link at www.arts.gov on the guidelines page for the opportunity you are applying for
• Submit at least 10 days before the posted deadline in case of issues

Part 2: Submit application materials via NEA’s Applicant Portal
• Bulk of your application narrative, budget information, and work samples
• Each program has an Instructions PDF available on www.arts.gov with detailed guidelines

Guidelines webinars and tutorials designed to assist you are archived on our website.
Helpful Hints

Complete your grants.gov and sam.gov registrations ASAP
Contact staff with questions
Webinars
Previously awarded grants
Sample application narratives
Request feedback
What else is the NEA doing?

**Creative Forces**  
Partnership with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to support creative arts therapy for active duty service members and veterans.

**The Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge**  
is a national competition for high school students who have a passion for writing songs that could be part of a musical theater production.

**NEA Big Read**  
Grants to support community reading programs
What else is the NEA doing?

**Poetry Out Loud**
High school poetry recitation contest

**Blue Star Museums**
Free admission to more than 2,000 museums to active-duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day

**Shakespeare in American Communities**
Grants to support performances of the works of William Shakespeare for students
Arts and the Economy

$763.6 B contributed to the U.S. economy in 2015

4.2% OF GDP growth in GDP contribution from arts and cultural production between 1998 and 2015.
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www.arts.gov
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal grant-making agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States.

Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans.
The Humanities
NEH Grant Applicants

- Museums + Historical Sites
- Archives + Libraries
- 2-year + 4-year Colleges and Universities, including:
  - Tribal Colleges + Universities
  - Historically Black Colleges + Universities
  - Hispanic-Serving Institutions
  - Individual College Faculty + Independent Scholars
- Documentary, Public Television + Radio Producers
- City, State, and Local Organizations
- State Humanities Councils
Museums, Libraries, Historic Sites

Preservation and Access

Public Programs
Higher Education and Research

Education

Challenge Grants and Digital Humanities

Research
Infrastructure and Capacity Building

Challenge Grants (matching grants)
Documentaries, Radio Programs, & Apps

Fort Vancouver

For the full app features, please visit The Fort Vancouver National Historic Site 612 E. Reserve St. Vancouver, Wash., 98661 360-816-6230

Digital Humanities

PILGRIMS

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY RIC BURNS

Public Programs
Support for Teachers

EDSITEment.neh.gov

Apply by March 1
State Humanities Councils

Find your state humanities council at www.neh.gov
Application Process
NEH Staff

- Answer questions
- Review draft applications
- Coordinate the peer-review process
- Provide guidance to grantees
- Share feedback on applications
Starting Points

• Start early
• Explore www.neh.gov
• Read sample applications
• Contact NEH staff
• Ask peers for advice
• Proofread
• Send in draft applications
• Become familiar with Grants.gov
• Ask for comments on denied applications
Strong Applicants

• Address the grant guidelines and criteria.
• Explain why the project is significant and how it relates to its field and audience.
• Highlight the humanities content.
• Show that the project is doable and can be completed in time.
• Make clear who the audience is for the project and that there is demand.
• Anticipate and address questions.
Grant Review Process

Sign up to serve as a peer-reviewer
Contact and Connect

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