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[National Endowment for the Arts Supports the Arts with over \\$27.5 Million in Awards in First Round of FY2021 Funding](#)

Washington, DC—The National Endowment for the Arts is pleased to announce the first round of recommended awards for fiscal year 2021 totaling \$27,562,040. Supported projects span 14 artistic disciplines in communities throughout the United States. Also included in this announcement are the recipients of NEA Literature Fellowships in creative writing and translation and support for arts research projects.

“The creativity and resilience of artists and arts organizations across the country have inspired Americans during this challenging year,” said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. “These projects represent the vitality and perseverance of arts organizations small and large to overcome significant challenges, transform to new ways of engagement, and forge new relationships that benefit the diverse populations in neighborhoods and cities throughout the United States.”

- [Click here](#) to view a state-by-state listing of all the grants announced in this release.
- [Click here](#) to view a listing of awards by discipline / grant category
- [Click here](#) for a list of the panelists who reviewed the applications for funding

The **Grants for Arts Projects (GAP)** awards range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and cover these artistic disciplines: Artist Communities, Arts Education, Dance, Design, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Media Arts, Museums, Music, Musical Theater, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater, and Visual Arts. In February 2020, the agency received 1,674 eligible GAP applications requesting more than \$82.4 million in FY 2021 support. Approved for funding are 1,073 projects totaling nearly \$25 million, with grants recommended to 64% of all applicants and an average grant amount of \$23,190. Grant guidelines and upcoming application deadlines [are now available](#) on the Arts Endowment website for organizations wishing to apply.

The Arts Endowment is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and fostering mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all individuals and groups. Part of this commitment includes our partnership with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Outreach to develop relationships and help HBCUs navigate funding opportunities has led to an increased number of applications from and involving HBCUs. A few Grants for Arts Projects examples of successful applications from this round of funding include:

- A \$20,000 award to **National Black Arts Festival** in Atlanta, Georgia, to support the **Move/Dance! Program** in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools and Spelman

College, which **will virtually engage students in the appreciation of Black dance in America.**

- A \$15,000 award to Illinois State University **to support outreach to HBCUs and the publication of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*.** With the aim of growing its readership and cultivating new voices, *Obsidian* plans to offer online literary programming at HBCUs across the country.
- A \$25,000 award to **Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts to support a master class series for aspiring classical music singers.** The project will take place at several historically Black colleges and universities such as Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland; Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.
- A \$20,000 award to **Josephine Sculpture Park** in Frankfort, Kentucky, **to support an artist residency program for visual artists and related public programming.** Artists will engage local rural audiences and a partnership with Kentucky State University will enable students to engage with the residency program as interns and volunteers.
- A \$100,000 award to **Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa** in Tuscaloosa, Alabama **to support the pARTners Project.** The goal of the initiative is to increase access to arts education for students in West-Central Alabama, with a special focus on preK-12th grade students in rural areas, by creating a strategic plan, providing arts integration programs to schools, including developing curriculum and training teachers. Teaching artists will be recruited for participation from local colleges and universities such as Stillman College.

The National Endowment for the Arts will award **\$1.2 million in FY 2021 Literature Fellowships to creative writers and translators.** This includes 35 Creative Writing Fellowships of \$25,000 each. These FY 2021 fellowships are in poetry and enable the recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. In addition, the Arts Endowment approved \$325,000 in fellowships to 24 translators to translate works from 16 languages and 19 countries into English. [Click here](#) to take a more in-depth look at these fellowships and other Literary Arts grants this round.

The National Endowment for the Arts also offers two funding opportunities for research projects. This year marks the tenth anniversary of grants for arts research, a program currently known as **Research Grants in the Arts.** For FY 2021, 14 organizations are recommended for Research Grants in the Arts totaling \$833,000. In addition, five **NEA Research Labs** are recommended for funding totaling \$645,790. Transdisciplinary research partnerships grounded in the social and behavioral sciences will examine and report on the benefit of the arts in non-arts sectors. [Click here](#) to explore more about the recommended arts research awards.

Many supported projects are currently working in a virtual space. This is also true for the panel process. Once applications are submitted to the agency for consideration and staff have reviewed them for eligibility and completeness, a panel of dedicated experts with knowledge

and experience in their field review and score each application in accordance with the published review criteria. Recommendations are then made to the National Council on the Arts. The council makes recommendations to the Chairman, who makes the final decision on all grant awards. The Arts Endowment assembles diverse panels every year with regard to geography, race and ethnicity, and artistic points of view. To learn more about the [process](#) or to [volunteer as a panelist](#).

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.

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