



National Endowment for the Arts Annual Report

*One of the Wild
Magnolias performs
during the NEA National
Heritage Fellowships
awards concert in
September 2011.*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL G. STEWART

2011

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April 15, 2012

Dear Mr. President:

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for Fiscal Year 2011.

Since it was established by Congress in 1965, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

The activities highlighted in this report illustrate the Arts Endowment's continuing commitment to making the arts a vital part of the lifeblood of this nation. Additionally, over the past year, I have been touring the country to see how art works in communities large and small. After having seen all the great work being done across the country, in communities large and small, it has made me doubly committed to making the arts a centerpiece of American life throughout the nation.

I am confident that as we continue to invest in the arts, we are investing in the very things that make this country great: creativity, inspiration, and hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rocco Landesman'.

Rocco Landesman

Chairman

National Endowment for the Arts

National Endowment for the Arts
The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001

A collection of Vollis Simpson's whirligigs, which will be repaired and conserved with an NEA Our Town grant.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BURK UZZLE



The Year in Review

The National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget was \$154,690,000, roughly equivalent to FY 2009's level. The NEA was able to fund a **wide variety of projects and fellowships**, including \$1,690,000 in Challenge America grants, \$8,925,000 in Learning in the Arts grants, and \$52,742,415 in Access to Artistic Excellence grants (including \$3,700,000 for Arts on Radio and Television grants). In addition, \$1,350,000 was awarded to 62 NEA Literature Fellows, and the NEA awarded \$450,000 in NEA Jazz Masters, NEA National Heritage Fellowships, and NEA Opera Honors.

GRANTS

Throughout FY 2011, NEA programs reached nearly 107 million Americans, including 10 million children, excluding our broadcast programs that touched millions more individuals. The agency's funding made possible approximately 88,000 concerts, readings, and performances; 4,000 exhibitions; and 9,000 artist residencies.

FY 2011 marked the launch of a new grant initiative, **Our Town**, to support creative placemaking around the country. A continuation of the MICD25 grants in 2010, Our Town supports projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform sites into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Such transformations will occur in places such as Ajo, Arizona, a town of roughly 3,000 people located in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. There, adaptive re-use of multiple historic buildings and outdoor spaces will bring together the area's three distinct communities: Anglo, Mexican, and Native American. In Wilson, North Carolina, the city is looking to create a park for local artist Vollis Simpson, whose whimsical outdoor art sculptures have won international recognition, making the city a cultural tourist destination. In Baltimore, Maryland, the Maryland Institute will use public art and design programming to enhance underutilized spaces in Baltimore's Station North Arts and Entertainment District, where many creative artists and organizations are based. In all, 51

grants were awarded in 34 states for a total of \$6,500,000.

In FY 2011, the NEA also engaged in a new initiative to find new models for local arts journalism in the digital age. The NEA partnered with the Knight Foundation to create the **Knight/NEA Community Arts Journalism Challenge**, an eight-city competition for organizations to rethink how traditional media systems function and how to best engage communities through the arts by providing new platforms for high quality cultural criticism and coverage. The competition took place in the summer of 2011 in Akron, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Macon, Georgia; Charlotte, North Carolina; Miami, Florida; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Jose, California; and St. Paul, Minnesota. In October 2011, five finalists were chosen and received \$20,000 each to develop an action plan to develop

their idea. From those, three winners received an additional \$80,000 each to implement their projects: Art Attack in Philadelphia, Charlotte Arts Journalism Alliance in Charlotte, and CriticCar Detroit in Detroit.

PARTNERSHIPS

Forty percent of the Arts Endowment's funds are awarded to longstanding partners: the state arts agencies (SAAs) and regional arts organizations (RAOs). With these grants, the SAAs/RAOs are able to fund arts education programs, regional touring projects, and arts activities in underserved communities, among many other activities.

The SAAs also facilitate the statewide contests for the NEA initiative **Poetry Out Loud**. The event culminates with semi-finals and national finals



From right to left: Youssef Biaz from Auburn, Alabama, won the Poetry Out Loud National Finals; Victoria DiMartile from Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, came in second place; and DeVonna Daisy Smith from Reading, Pennsylvania, took third place.

PHOTO BY JAMES KEGLEY

held in Washington, DC, which were webcast live for the first time this year. In April 2011, POL Alabama State Champion Youssef Biaz was named the national champion. Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, a regional arts organization, and the Poetry Foundation are also important partners on this initiative.

The Illinois Arts Council worked with the NEA to convene the NEA Education Leaders Institute in Chicago, Illinois, in May 2011. This program brings together decision-makers from state education departments, SAAs, educators, policymakers, and business and philanthropic leaders to discuss arts education and education policy. Five state teams attended from California, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, and South Dakota—since 2007, arts education policy teams from 28 states and the District of Columbia have participated in the institute convenings.

The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, together with the NEA and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, announced a new public-private program in August 2011 — Southern Exposure: Performing Arts of Latin America. The program will bring exemplary contemporary and traditional performing arts from Latin America to audiences across the United States who might not have access to this work. The grantees will be announced in the spring 2012.

Regional arts organization Arts Midwest plays an important role in two NEA initiatives: The Big Read and



Michael Harasimowicz, Vice Wing Commander of the 70 Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance at Maryland's Fort Meade, speaking about the value and importance of the Blue Star Museums initiative at the June 2011 National Council on the Arts meeting.

PHOTO BY KATHY PLOWITZ-WORDEN

Shakespeare for A New Generation. **The Big Read**, the NEA initiative to restore reading to the center of American culture, awarded grants totaling more than \$1 million to 76 organizations nationwide in FY 2011. Since 2006, the Big Read has reached nearly three million Americans, involving 27,000 community partner organizations. **Shakespeare for A New Generation**, which introduces middle and high school students to live Shakespeare productions, awarded grants to 36 theater companies to produce plays and accompanying educational material for at least ten schools each. Since its inception, more than 5,500 schools have seen performances through the program in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In addition to partnerships on the state and regional level, the NEA collaborates with other agencies on the federal level. FY 2011 was the second year of **Blue Star Museums**, a joint initiative among the NEA, the Department of Defense, and Blue Star Families

to offer free museum admission to active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. More than 1,500 museums participated this year, about a 60 percent increase. An average of 234 military men, women, and their families attended per participating institution, translating to approximately 350,000 attendees in the program.

As part of the **Library of Congress' National Book Festival**, held in Washington, DC in September 2011, the NEA brought a slew of writers and poets to the NEA Poetry and Prose Pavilion. For the first time, the NEA Pavilion featured two days (instead of one) of readings from authors such as NEA Literature Fellows Michael Cunningham, Rita Dove, Claudia Emerson, Kimiko Hahn, Terrance Hayes, and Yusef Komunyakaa, as well as 2011 Poetry Out Loud state champions from Alabama, Colorado, and Nevada.

The National Park Service and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities jointly announced the awarding of \$14.3 million in federal competitive **Save America's Treasures** grants in FY 2011. The grants were made in collaboration with the NEA, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and

Save America's Treasures' private partner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the grants, 61 organizations and agencies will conserve nationally significant cultural and historic sites, buildings, objects, documents, and collections. Some of the projects specifically supported by the NEA will conserve 48 paintings by abstract expressionist artist Hans Hofmann at the Berkeley Art Museum in California; preserve the architectural drawings and historic images of the first international-style skyscraper in the United States,

held in the Howe and Lescaze Design Archives in Delaware; and stabilize and re-house the Gordon Parks Collection, which features more than 5,000 photographic prints and more than 22,000 negatives, slides, and contact sheets by the renowned African-American artist, in Pleasantville, New York.

LIFETIME HONORS

The Arts Endowment continued to make its events accessible to all through the use of social media and the Internet. All three lifetime honors events—NEA National Heritage Fellowships, NEA Opera Honors, and NEA Jazz Masters—were webcast

live. Archived videos of the events are available on the NEA YouTube channel.

The **NEA National Heritage Fellowships** concert took place in September 2011 at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland. The show opened with a capella by Old Regular Baptist singer Frank Newsome, followed by the taiko drum ensemble of Roy and PJ Hirabayashi. The grand finale was led by the Wild Magnolias, the musical group of Mardi Gras Indian Chief Bo Dollis (who unfortunately couldn't attend the event due to health reasons—he was, however, able to watch his son lead the band on the live webcast of the event). The archive of the event can be found

Newly minted NEA Jazz Masters Jack DeJohnette (on drums), Sheila Jordan (on vocals), and Jimmy Owens (on trumpet) with 1998 NEA Jazz Master Ron Carter on bass at the awards concert.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL G. STEWART



NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman sharing a laugh with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan at the National Summit on City Design in Chicago, Illinois in April 2011.

PHOTO BY DAVID HATHCOX



on the [NEA YouTube](#) channel.

The **NEA Opera Honors** event took place in October 2011 at the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Sidney Harman Hall in Washington, DC. The event served as the kickoff event for **National Opera Week**, during which opera companies, schools, and organizations across the United States offer free, accessible opera events to their communities. Hosted by NPR's Nina Totenberg (with an introduction by Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg), the program intermingled music numbers with interviews with the honorees. The archive of the event can be found on the [NEA YouTube channel](#).

The **NEA Jazz Masters** awards concert occurred in January 2012 at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. This year the event highlighted the connection between the venerated elders and the new breed in jazz, pairing NEA Jazz Masters such as Phil Woods, Dave Liebman, and Benny Golson with newcomers such as saxophonist Grace Kelly, trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, and pianist Kris Bowers. A highlight of the evening was when NEA Jazz Master Bobby Hutcherson took a marvelous, stunning solo on the vibraphone while connected to an oxygen tank. The archive of the event can be found on the [NEA YouTube channel](#).

ART WORKS TOUR

Chairman Rocco Landesman continued his Art Works tour across the country, visiting noteworthy cultural sites in each town and city, and meeting with arts leaders, policymakers, artists, and students to explore how art functions in their communities. You can follow all of his travels on our [Art Works Blog](#). In February, the chairman visited Providence, **Rhode Island**, with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse to highlight the integral role the artistic community plays in the state's economy. In March, the chairman headed south to **Shreveport, Louisiana**, which received an MICD25 grant in FY 2010 to turn a landmark fire station into an arts center and headquarters for the local arts agency. The chairman also visited Charlotte, North Carolina, at the invitation of the Knight Foundation and the Arts and Science Council.

The chairman next traveled to **Chicago, Illinois**, to attend the

National Summit on City Design, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Mayors' Institute on City Design, a collaboration of the NEA, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and American Architectural Foundation. Bringing together more than 50 mayors and design experts, the summit examined the power of arts and design to transform cities. Several federal agencies sent representatives as well from the Department of Transportation, Domestic Policy Council, and Housing and Urban Development.

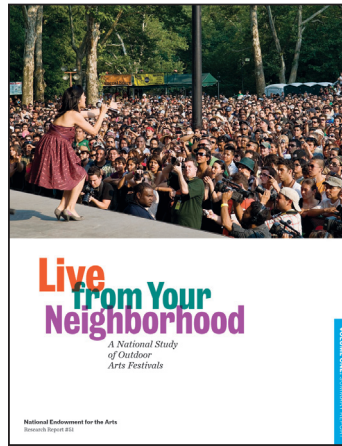
In May, the chairman toured central **California**, hitting Fresno, Merced, and Modesto to look at the role of traditional arts in community revitalization strategies. Across the country in July, the chairman visited **New York State** with U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter, co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus. After giving the keynote address at the League of Historic American Theatres National Conference at Proctors GE Theatre in Schenectady, the chairman traveled to the Western New York cities of Buffalo

and Rochester. He then delivered a lecture at the Chautauqua Institute on how art works.

September was a busy month for the chairman, making trips to **Minneapolis, Minnesota**, and **Charleston, South Carolina**, to visit sites of NEA Our Town grantees, and to **Alaska** as part of the Rasmuson Foundation's annual Grantmakers Tour, meeting with both of the state's senators, Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich. He concluded the fiscal year with a multi-city trip to **Ohio**, visiting Our Town grantees in Hamilton and Columbus (along with U.S. Representative Pat Tiberi) as well as arts leaders in Cincinnati and Cleveland.

RESEARCH

The **NEA Research and Analysis office** continued to conduct research on the value and impact of the arts in all domains of American life, such as health and well-being, community livability, and economic prosperity. Its report on the important aesthetic and economic impact of outdoor arts festivals—*Live from Your Neighborhood*—collected and analyzed comprehensive data for the first time on a large cross-section of U.S. arts festivals, including case studies on seven distinctive festivals. Research also released three new reports analyzing the data from the 2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA): *Arts Education in America: What the Declines Mean for Arts Participation*; *Beyond Attendance: A Multi-modal*



Understanding of Arts Participation; and *Age and Arts Participation: A Case Against Demographic Destiny*. Commissioned by the Research office to take a deeper look at the survey data, teams from the University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and the research firm WolfBrown confirmed the importance of arts education, looked for better ways to measure arts participation, and challenged the notion of the “graying” of arts audiences.

In addition to producing research information, the NEA Research office has held convenings via webinars to present this information to the arts field. A convening was held in conjunction with the release of the three SPPA reports in February 2011 and another was held in May 2011 in conjunction with the release of *Time and Money: Using Federal Data to Measure the Value of Performing Arts Activities*, a research note by NEA staff Bonnie Nichols. The note analyzed data from the Economic Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics to measure monetary and non-monetary value of the nation's performing arts sector.

MOVING FORWARD

The Arts Endowment continues to move forward in supporting and enhancing art in America, and facilitating access to the nation's artistic resources. As the chairman noted when delivering the prestigious Blashfield Address at the American Academy of Arts and Letters in May 2011, “Art is not so much the predication as the elaboration of our humanity. It is the unnecessary that gives life to the flourish: the exuberance of an inspired jazz riff; the startling first encounter with pointillism; the moment at the height of a dancer's leap when time seems to stop; the Shakespearean soliloquy that takes your breath away; the surprise and satisfaction in a brilliant rhyme.” This is the reason that the NEA strives to help create better communities and better citizens through the arts. ■

Financial Summary

SUMMARY OF FUNDS AVAILABLE	FY 2011
Appropriated Program Funds	125,378,740
Appropriated Balance, Prior Year ¹	13,761,116
Nonfederal Gifts ¹	1,167,786
Interagency Transfers ¹	2,136,656
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE	142,444,298
TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT FUNDS AVAILABLE¹	2,225,346
TOTAL SALARY AND EXPENSE FUNDS AVAILABLE²	30,513,198
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE³	175,182,842

¹ Includes FY 2010 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2011, prior year deobligations carried forward into FY 2011, and funds newly available in FY 2011, as applicable.

² Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers including FY 2010 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2011, prior year deobligations brought forward into FY 2011, and funds newly available in FY 2011, as applicable.

³ Includes nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers held on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

Summary of Funds Obligated for FY 2011¹

(\$ in thousands)

TOTAL

Access to Artistic Excellence:

Direct Endowment Grants	
Project Support ²	61,230
Challenge America: Reaching Every Community	9,580
Total Access to Artistic Excellence	70,810

Learning in the Arts

Direct Endowment Grants	
Project Support	12,145
Partnerships for the Arts	1,700
Total Learning in the Arts	13,845

Partnerships for the Arts

State Partnerships	
State & Regional	38,951
Underserved	10,567
Total Partnerships for the Arts	49,518

Total Program Funds Obligated **134,173**

Total Program Support Funds Obligated **2,027**

Total Salaries & Expenses Funds Obligated **28,141**

TOTAL FUNDS OBLIGATED³ **164,341**

¹ Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers.

² Includes \$1,134K for Save America's Treasures.

³ Includes funds obligated on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

National Council on the Arts

(as of April 15, 2012)

Rocco Landesman

Chairman, National Endowment
for the Arts

James Ballinger

Museum Director/Phoenix, AZ

TERM: 2004-2010

Miguel Campaneria

Dance School Director/Hartford, CT

TERM: 2007-2012

Ben Donenberg

Theater Producer, Director, Arts
Educator/Los Angeles, CA

TERM: 2006-2012

Aaron Dworkin

Violinist/Music Educator

TERM: 2011-2014

JoAnn Falletta

Music Director/Buffalo, NY, &
Norfolk, VA

TERM: 2008-2012

Lee Greenwood

Country Music Singer, Songwriter/
Nashville, TN

TERM: 2008-2014

Joan Israelite

Retired Local Arts Agency Executive/
Kansas City, MO

TERM: 2006-2012

Charlotte Kessler

Patron, Trustee/Columbus, OH

TERM: 2006-2012

Bret Lott

Author, Editor/Charleston, SC

TERM: 2006-2012

Irvin Mayfield

Jazz Musician, Composer/New
Orleans, LA

TERM: 2010-2016

Stephen Porter

Patron, Attorney/Washington, DC

TERM: 2007-2012

Barbara Ernst Prey

Visual Artist/Oyster Bay, NY

TERM: 2008-2014

Frank Price

Film Industry Executive/
New York, NY

TERM: 2006-2012

Terry Teachout

Critic, Author/New York, NY

TERM: 2004-2012

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Senate

Claire McCaskill (D-MO)

Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

House

Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Patrick J. Tiberi (R-OH)

Appointment by Majority and Minority
leadership of the remaining Members of
Congress to the Council is pending.

NEA Discipline Directors

(as of April 15, 2012)

FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS

Barry Bergey

ACCESSIBILITY

Beth Bienvenu

MUSIC AND OPERA

Wayne Brown

MUSEUMS AND VISUAL ARTS

Robert Frankel

ARTS EDUCATION

Ayanna Hudson

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Sunil Iyengar

CHALLENGE AMERICA AND LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES

Michael Killoren

MEDIA ARTS

Alyce Myatt

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pennie Ojeda

PRESENTING AND ARTISTIC COMMUNITIES

Michael Orlove

THEATER AND MUSICAL THEATER

Ralph Remington

STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Laura Scanlan

DESIGN

Jason Schupbach

LITERATURE

Ira Silverberg

DANCE

Douglas Sonntag



ART WORKS.

arts.gov

The NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government.

To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.