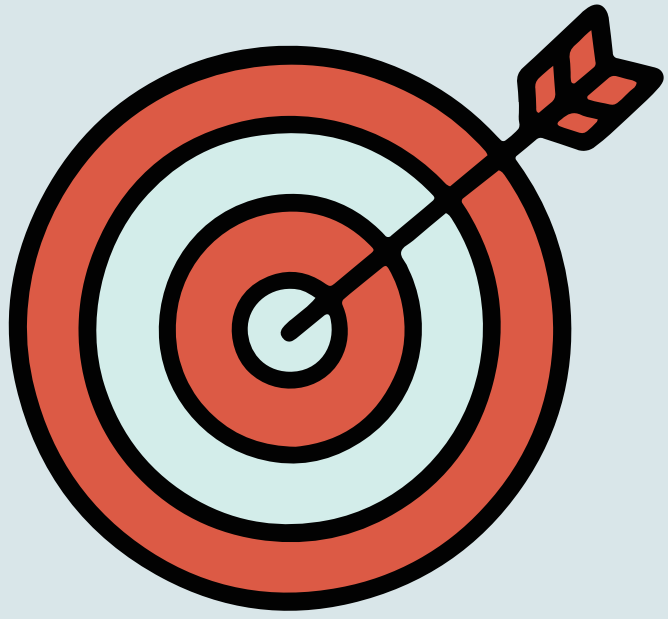




Purpose

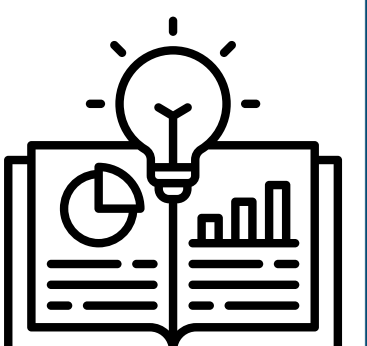
The NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) funds the arts and arts education across the country. Through the support of arts activities, the NEA hopes to create an environment where arts education is accessible and enjoyable for everyone in any community in any region of the United States.

Context:

The NEA was established by Congress as part of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, which aimed to advance the humanities nationally.



Today, it is the largest funder of the arts and arts education nationwide, as well as the only arts funder that provides arts access to all 50 states plus jurisdictions of the United States.



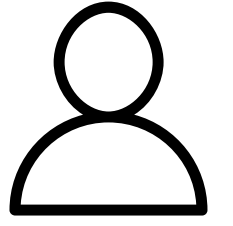
What is the impact?



Policy Actions

The NEA does several things to support the arts, primarily by funding non-profit organizations. They do so through grants, partnerships, and initiatives. They also offer fellowship awards and a research database that allows for easy access to statistics about the health of the arts.

Who is affected?



NEA funding helps support non-profits across the entire country, meaning any initiative created by a non-profit (including Equal Notes!) has the opportunity to receive funding from the NEA. Additionally, the NEA offers NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships and National Heritage Fellowships for artists and supporters.

Why does this policy matter?

The NEA is the biggest supporter of arts in the country, offering millions of dollars to not only advance and progress the arts, but also to maintain the health of existing art and expand access to the arts. These actions make it easier for underprivileged communities to explore and experience the arts.



Limitations

Despite its role as a major source of funding for the arts, the NEA operates on a smaller budget that has been constantly being cut. Because of this, they were forced to withdraw \$27 million dollars in grants in 2025, showing how executive decisions, especially regarding budgets, can greatly affect the federal agency.

Sources

- <https://www.arts.gov/about/what-is-the-nea>
- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/89th-congress/senate-bill/1483/text>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/local-arts-groups-face-budget-gaps-as-nea-pulls-grants>