



National Endowment for the Arts Funding to New Jersey: Sample Curtain Speech

(These are suggested talking points, but remember that the message will be much more effective if you speak in your own words and tell the story of your organization's partnership with the NEA)

Today, we are asking our audiences for a special favor. You may have heard that the federal budget may call for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts, established in 1965 as an independent agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens creative capacity, and we certainly don't want to see that happen.

[SHARE WHAT THE NEA HAS PROVIDED TO YOUR ORGANIZATION, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS]

Please reach out to your federal representatives and ask them to protect the NEA. The cultural experience that you have today depends on the NEA. You can visit ArtPride New Jersey's Arts Action Center for more information, or to sign up to receive updates and news about critical arts funding. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- Each year, the NEA awards **nearly \$2 million to New Jersey**
 - **\$872,100* awarded to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts**
 - A portion of this supports general operating and administration of the NJSCA
 - The rest is redistributed through NJSCA grants
 - The **NEA made 39 direct grants totaling \$1,044,871* in New Jersey.**
- **NJ's non-profit arts industry generates more than \$1.5 billion each year**, through direct and indirect patron spending
- NJ's non-profit arts organizations support more than **80,000 jobs in NJ**
- The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in 50 states, DC and the US territories.
- NEA funding goes deep into communities around New Jersey, often serving outreach programs for people with special needs that would otherwise be unaffordable
- The NEA's **total budget is \$148 million**—just 0.004 percent of the federal budget and 47 cents per capita
- NEA grants provide a significant return on investment with **\$1 of NEA direct funding leveraging up to \$9 in private and other public funds**, resulting in \$500 million in matching support in 2016

IMPORTANT LINKS

National Endowment for the Arts <https://www.arts.gov>

ArtPride New Jersey <http://www.artpridenj.com/>

Americans for the Arts <http://www.americansforthearts.org/>

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/>