



OHIO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION
Arts Online Newsletter Week of February 5, 2024

ARTS FYI

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

NEA releases guidelines for research grants in the arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson chair, released on January 31, 2024, updated **guidelines for the *Research Grants in the Arts*** program.

These matching and cost sharing **grants range between \$20,000 and \$100,000** and are available through the National Endowment for the Arts' Office of Research & Analysis.

The **grants can be used to support "...research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts**, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecosystem or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life."

Proposals must align with at least one of the priority topics and possible questions within the agency's FY22-26 research agenda [HERE](#). The priorities **include the measurable impact of the arts on cognition and learning, and** the status of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in the arts.

The deadline to apply for a grant is March 25, 2024. **Application guidelines for the present round of funding are available** [HERE](#).

The NEA will conduct a **live webinar on February 5, 2024 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time (ET)**. The webinar will include an overview of the grant process followed by a Q&A session. **Information on registration for the webinar can be found** [HERE](#). The webinar will be available afterward in the archives. Additional "office hours" are also available.

Questions about the grant should be directed to the Office of Research & Analysis staff at nearesearchgrants@arts.gov.

Highlights of the NEA National Summit on *Healing, Bridging, and Thriving*

Director Neera Tanden of the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Director Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D. of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), co-hosted *Healing, Bridging, and Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities* on January 30, 2024, at the Constitution Center in Washington, D.C. **A video of the summit is available** [HERE](#).

The purpose of the summit was to "...examine ideas, policies, and actions that will move forward a broader understanding of how arts and culture can contribute to other fields and unlock new

opportunities for artists,” including contributing to the health and well-being of individuals and communities; invigorating physical spaces; supporting the economy; and fostering equitable outcomes.

Attending the summit were government officials, lawmakers, artists, arts advocates, academics, arts leaders, and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, who **talked about some of the projects that the Biden Administration is launching to ensure that the arts, culture, and humanities are an integral part of national policies and practices.**

President Biden issued an Executive Order on September 30, 2022 calling for the integration of arts and culture to help heal the country, bridge divisions, and ensure the nation thrives. [HERE](#).

Since that time government departments and agencies have been **collaborating with artists on several initiatives. Some of these projects were highlighted at the summit:**

- The Ashé Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans is a 2022-2023 Cultural Hub for the **Artists At Work initiative in partnership with THE OFFICE performing arts + film and The Mississippi Center for Cultural Production.** The collaboration is designed to support the rebuilding of health communities through civic engagement. [HERE](#).
- **One Nation/One Project conducts research about the impact of arts participation on health** by supporting local leaders from the arts, health, and public sectors to leverage the power of the arts to strengthen the social fabric of the nation and heal communities. [HERE](#).
- Julie Garreau, Chief Executive Officer of the **Cheyenne River Youth Project, launched the Waniyetu Wowapi Lakota Arts Institute as an investment in the future of the Cheyenne River youth and community to ensure consistent access to arts education** and training to strengthen connections to Lakota art and culture. [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

During the summit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) **announced additional actions that they would be taking to support interagency collaborations in support of the arts.**

One of the initiatives was described by Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and NEA Chair Jackson. The two agencies are **launching a new Interagency Working Group on Arts, Health, and Civic Infrastructure**, chaired by NEA Chair Jackson and HHS Secretary Becerra. This working group will enable communication and coordination across more than ten federal agencies to further partnerships, research, and increase opportunities for the **inclusion of arts and cultural strategies for advancing health and strengthening civic infrastructure.** This group will convene for the first time in February.

NEA Chair Jackson announced that the agency is **committing \$5 million for an initiative to support the work of artists and arts organizations in contributing to the health and well-being of individuals and communities.** Primary components of the initiative include funding for related projects, a community of practice, research, and documentation.

Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also announced that **the EPA is launching its first ever artist-in-residence program in partnership with the NEA. EPA anticipates embedding a minimum of six artists within national estuary or urban water locations over 18 months.** The goals is to integrate arts and culture into key EPA program areas, deepen local relationships and trust, increase community buy-in and support, and elevate the voices of underrepresented people.

As part of the NEA's and National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) partnership on ***United We Stand: Connecting through Culture***, NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe discussed the impact of NEH's **\$3 million allocation to all 56 states and jurisdictions to support projects that seek to combat hate and promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding**. Building on this work, NEA's Chair Jackson announced that the NEA is committing an additional \$2 million to ensure that arts organizations join their humanities colleagues in this united effort to counter hate. In 2024 NEH and NEA will host convenings focusing on the instrumental role of the arts and the humanities in deterring and responding to hate-motivated violence.

Neera Tanden, domestic policy advisor to President Biden and director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said at the summit, **"The arts are often the best way for us to see the humanity of each other.** That understanding of other people's lives – that emotional connection that art creates to connect us to people who are entirely different from ourselves – is central to democracy. None of our work would be possible without artists, partners across the federal government, nonprofit, private, philanthropic, and other sectors represented here today."

NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD added, "For my entire career, my sincere belief has been that the **things we aspire to as a nation of opportunity and justice are not possible without the integration of arts and culture throughout society**. Today's Summit has been an extraordinary demonstration of what is possible when the arts, culture, and humanities are at the intersections of other areas of policy and practice."

Healing, Bridging, and Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities was supported through a partnership with the Barr Foundation, Good Chaos, The Heinz Endowments, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and The Roundhouse Foundation.

Source: **National Endowment for the Arts, "Groundbreaking Arts Summit Propels National Conversation on Healing, Bridging, and Thriving,"** January 31, 2024, [HERE](#).

A video of the summit is archived [HERE](#).

Source: Blair, Elizabeth. **"The arts span every facet of life – White House just hosted a summit about it,"** NPR, January 30, 2024 [HERE](#).

News from the Ohio Arts Council



Poetry Out Loud (POL)

The Ohio Arts Council, Donna Collins executive director, announced on January 10, 2024, that **nine Ohio high school students will compete in Columbus for the title of 2024 Ohio Poetry Out Loud (POL) State Champion on Friday, February 9, 2024.**

Poetry Out Loud is the nation's largest youth poetry recitation competition connecting high school students to poetry and poets from around the world. It is presented by the *National Endowment for the Arts* and the *Poetry Foundation* in partnership with the *Ohio Arts Council* to encourage high school students to learn about great poetry, master public-speaking skills, build self-confidence, and study their literary heritage. POL is administered in partnership with the state arts agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

WOSU Public Media will again host the **State Finals in the Ross Community Studio, where** students will recite their poems in front of a live audience of family and friends. The event is free and open to the public and begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, February 9, 2024. [HERE.](#)

The 2024 Ohio POL State Finalists are:

Eli Abel, senior, Bexley High School

Amanda Braig, senior, McNicholas High School (Cincinnati)

William Chadwick, senior, Arcanum High School

Tamia Christian, junior, Cleveland Heights High School

Timyah Ciboro, sophomore, Toledo Early College

Addison Derry, sophomore, John Glenn High School (New Concord)

Houda Loukssi, junior, Xenia High School

Daphne McCombs, freshman, River Valley High School (Caledonia)

Tori Negroni, senior, Upper Arlington High School

The State Finals competition **consists of three rounds**. Each student will recite one poem in each round. Contest results will be determined by the cumulative scores from all three rounds, with the State Champion title awarded to the student with the highest score overall.

The State Finals **will be adjudicated by three guest judges**: poets Susann Moeller, Terry Hermsen, and Cynthia Amoah—who participated in POL when she was a student at Reynoldsburg High School. Current OAC board member Peter Lawson Jones will emcee the event. This year's guest poets include Ohioans Mary Ruth Camp, Jacqueline Wilkinson-Johnson, Kimberly Bolden, and Wendy McVicker. They will recite their own original poetry throughout the evening.

The winner of the Ohio State Finals will represent Ohio at the POL National Finals to compete with other State Champions for the title of National Champion. The National Finals will be held in Washington, D.C. from April 30 to May 2, 2024.

This year *Poetry Out Loud* celebrates 18 years of increasing student awareness about the art of performing poetry. The first POL National Champion was Jackson Hille from Columbus Alternative High School in Columbus in 2006. Many other students from Ohio have participated in the national championship since then, and have ranked highly in the competition.

For more **POL** information visit the Ohio Arts Council's website [HERE](#).

OAC releases a first look at field survey results

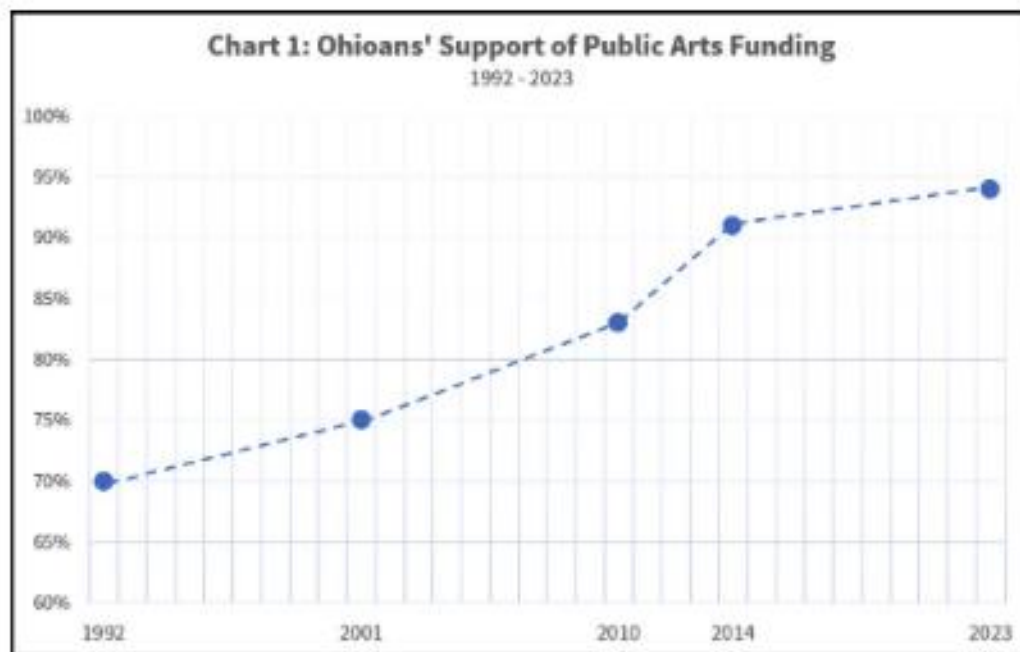
The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) released on January 23, 2024, a **first look at the results of a survey taken last fall involving more than 5,700 valid responses from Ohioans in all 88 counties**. [HERE](#).

The survey included **questions about a variety of arts-related topics**, the results, of which, will be **used to inform OAC's strategic planning, policy development, and funding prioritization**.

The results will also be **used to identify trends and track perceptions and beliefs about the arts** over time.

The following is a **summary of an initial analysis of the results**:

Ohioans overwhelmingly support the use of public tax dollars to support the arts: Between 1992 – 2023 the percentage of Ohioans who agreed to using public funds to support the arts **increased from 70 percent to 94 percent**. According to the OAC analysis, this is great news for advocates for the arts, because it means that there has been an “increasing appetite for public arts funding” each time the public has been surveyed over the past 30 years.

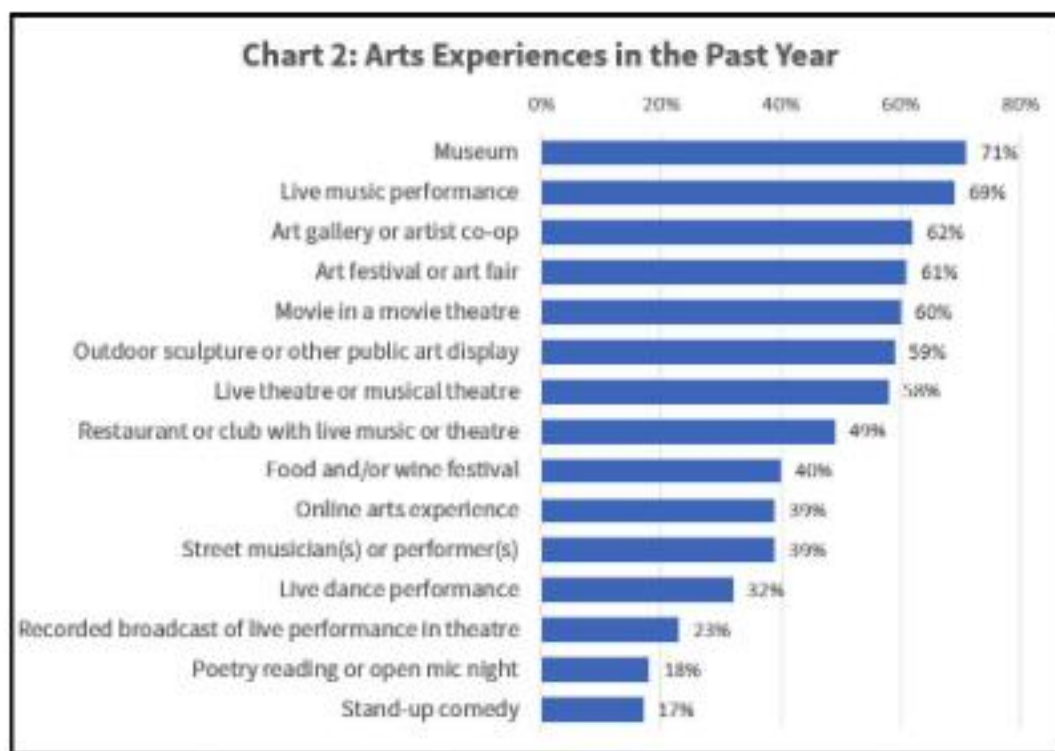


Courtesy of the Ohio Arts Council Field Study Report

The arts matter to Ohioans. The arts continue to play an important role in the lives of Ohioans. A majority of respondents to the survey (97 percent) reported that it was either very true (72 percent) or somewhat true (25 percent) that the arts in Ohio had touched their lives in a meaningful way. This result is almost identical to the result of a 2014 OAC survey, which found that 96 percent of respondents found the arts meaningful.

Ohioans participate in a wide range of arts activities. Over the past year a majority of respondents reported that they attended or experienced a range of arts activities. Most respondents (71 percent) reported that they visited museums; 68 percent attended live music performances; 62 percent attended art galleries or co-ops; 61 percent attended arts festivals or fairs; 59 percent visited a public art display; and 58 percent attended live music venues.

The most common arts activity that respondents practiced (either regularly or occasionally) included visual arts (drawing, painting, or working on crafts); performing arts (singing or playing a musical instrument); and literary arts (writing creatively).



Courtesy of the Ohio Arts Council Field Study Report

Arts education remains Ohioans' top funding priority. When it comes to setting priorities for using state funds to support the arts, respondents reported that the top priority was support for the arts in schools, which was also a top priority in the 2014 survey, according to the OAC analysis. Respondents also supported state funding for arts organizations, funding for local communities to develop their own arts and cultural resources, and funding for public art.

Ohioans have a positive view of the state's arts offerings. When asked to rate arts experiences in Ohio, between 73-83 percent said that the arts rated either good or excellent based on affordability, access, diversity, quantity, quality, and educational value.

According to the OAC, a full report summarizing the results of the field survey will be available later this spring after further analysis of the views, preferences, and recommendations of respondents based on region, educational background, vocation, and other demographics.

Source: Ohio Arts Council, 2023 Ohio Arts Field Survey, January 23, 2024, [HERE](#).



Two Cultural Center of India dance films win international award



Two Cultural Centre Of India dance films from won the Music Video Category at the prestigious Aasha International Film Festival. Both films are a homage to the Ohio River and the indigenous cultures who were stewards of the source of life as Water is Life. We appreciate the support from the Ohio Arts Council to the tell the story of the Ohio River artistically.

1. River dances within me: [FB Link](#) - [Instagram Link](#)
2. Dancing River: [FB Link](#) - [Instagram Link](#)

Aasha International Film Festival from India is dedicated to the vision of The great DADA SAHEB FALKE (1870-1944 1st Indian film maker). Awards are felicitated to our team in the name of Shree Dada Saheb Falke. Thank you to Aasha and we are so honored for this recognition.

<https://culturalcenterofindia.com/>