

## **Supporting Statement A: Annual Arts Basic Survey**

### **Introduction**

This request is for clearance to conduct the 2018 and 2019 Annual Arts Basic Survey (AABS) (formally titled Annual Arts Benchmarking Survey). This survey will be conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as a supplement to the Bureau of Labor Statistic's Current Population Survey. The AABS will be conducted in February 2018 and February 2019 and is expected to be conducted annually thereafter in years that the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) is not conducted. To date, the AABS has been conducted annually from 2013 to 2016. One of the strengths of the AABS is that it will complement and supplement the information collected in the SPPA. The SPPA is the field's premiere repeated cross-sectional survey of individual attendance and involvement in arts and cultural activities, and is conducted approximately every five years. The AABS is much shorter than the SPPA, consisting of 12 to 14 questions that will be used to track arts participation over time.

As with the SPPA, the AABS data will be circulated to interested researchers and will be the basis for a range of NEA reports and independent research publications. Reports on these data will be made publicly available on the NEA's website<sup>1</sup> or NEA-designated websites. The AABS will provide annual primary knowledge on the extent and nature of participation in the arts in the United States. These data will also be used by the NEA as a contextual measure for one of the strategic goals identified in its FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.<sup>2</sup>

### **A. Justification**

#### **A.1. Necessity of Information Collection**

The NEA, pursuant to its mandate "to support projects and productions that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding and appreciation of the arts" (USC20, Section 954 (5)) and "to develop and implement a practical system of national information and data collection and public dissemination on the arts and their audiences, including trends in audience participation" (USC 20, Section 954 (q)), has entered into an interagency agreement with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct the Annual Arts Basic Survey (AABS). The U.S. Census Bureau is authorized to collect data under Title 13, United States Code, Section 182 (see Attachment A).

As a national survey, the AABS will serve as a sound basis on which to make annual estimates of participation rates in the various art forms asked on the survey. National data from the AABS, with the SPPA, has appeared regularly in the Social Indicators chapter of the Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government. The AABS data will also provide information on the characteristics of the population participating in the arts. In addition, the AABS gathers information on the characteristics of adults who do not participate in the arts. Given that the AABS will be collected on an annual basis, the AABS will provide trend data that will help policymakers and arts administrators make decisions using reliable and recent information. In addition, these data will be used by the NEA as an indicator in the NEA's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://arts.gov/artistic-fields/research>

<sup>2</sup> <https://arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEAStrategicPlan2014-2018.pdf>

## **A.2. Needs and Uses of the Data**

The AABS will provide measures of participation in the arts from a nationally representative sample of adults ages 18 and older. The information to be collected from adults include attendance at live arts events, participation in the arts through performing or creating art, reading, and visiting historic parks, art museums or galleries. Since access to the arts is a major agency goal, measuring the wide range of possible ways the American public can participate in the arts is of critical importance.

The sample design is such that, in addition to the capability of making national estimates, it will be possible to generate estimates for subregions of the nation and for approximately 32 individual states and 11 large metropolitan areas. Thus, policymakers and arts administrators at the national, regional, state, and local levels will be able to study the patterns of participation across various population subgroups and to look for correlates of participation in artistic and other cultural activities. The data from this study will better enable arts administrators to make essential policy decisions based on such things as the size and characteristics of current audiences in 2018 and 2019. Publications based on this data will be available to the public on the NEA's website<sup>3</sup> or NEA-designated websites, where studies on the SPPA data can also be found.

The AABS is an annual study that complements the ongoing assessment of the arts leisure-time activities that began with the 1982 SPPA and was followed with the 1985, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2008, 2012, and 2017 SPPA surveys. The first four years of the AABS were conducted in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, with odd years focusing on arts attendance and arts learning, and even years focusing on arts creation and performance. These data allow arts administrators to assess how the demand for the arts changes over time, and how the nature of adults' participation in the arts changes over time. Data from previous SPPA surveys have been widely used by policymakers and scholars because of their unique scope and statistical precision.

The AABS will improve on the SPPA in two distinct ways. First, by benchmarking key art forms, the AABS will free the SPPA from this task, providing more flexibility in measuring new or redefined art forms and thereby addressing a recurring criticism of the SPPA. Second, the annual estimates from the AABS will help users of SPPA data assess whether changes in the SPPA participation estimates are more likely a short-term phenomenon (based, for instance, on the economy or a major current event) or a long-term shift in participation.

## **A.3. Use of Information Technology**

The AABS questions are designed to obtain the required information while keeping respondent burden to a minimum. The proposed items and interviewer procedures were developed over years of consultation with the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and other government agencies. The use of computer-assisted personal and telephone interviewing is deemed the most appropriate collection methodology.

## **A.4. Efforts to Identify Duplication**

Preexisting surveys, such as the General Social Survey (sponsored by the National Science Foundation), periodically include a handful of arts participation questions. However, there is no existing nationally representative survey outside of the AABS and SPPA that allows for tracking of public participation in the arts on an annual basis and for analysis by demographic and

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://arts.gov/artistic-fields/research>

geographic subgroups.

#### **A.5. Minimizing Burden in Small Businesses or Small Entities**

Not applicable. The collection of public participation in the arts information does not involve small businesses or other small entities.

#### **A.6. Consequences of Less Frequent Data Collection**

The goal of NEA is to conduct the AABS on an annual basis (except for when the SPPA is conducted) in order to enable policymakers and arts administrators to make decisions using reliable and recent information.

#### **A.7. Special Circumstances**

There are no special circumstances that apply to the AABS.

#### **A.8. Public Comment and Consultations Outside the Agency**

A notice was published in the Federal Register (Document #2017-06326) on March 31, 2017, to solicit comments on the benchmarking survey prior to submission of this OMB clearance request. (A copy of this notice is in Attachment B.) One comment was received. The second Federal Register Notice was published on June 2, 2017 (Document #2017-11405). (A copy of this notice is in Attachment C.)

The AABS questions are essentially from the SPPA questionnaire and were selected by a team internal to the NEA. The SPPA questionnaire was developed by extensive advisory panels of academicians and users of national arts data.

The AABS survey instruments are included in the appendix (Attachment D). To remain consistent with previous waves of the AABS, the surveys will be conducted on a rotating basis: the survey with questions on arts attendance and arts learning will be conducted in odd years (FY 2019 and FY 2021). The survey with questions on arts creation and performance will be conducted in even years (FY 2018 and FY 2020). This clearance request includes only FY 2018 and FY 2019 waves.

#### **A.9. Paying Respondents**

The Census does not make any payments or provide any gifts to individuals participating in the CPS.

#### **A.10. Assurance of Confidentiality**

During the actual AABS, the U.S. Census Bureau will collect the supplement data in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the OMB Circular A-130. Each sample household receives an advance letter approximately one week before the start of the initial CPS interview (see Attachment E). The letter includes the information required by the Privacy Act of 1974, explains the voluntary nature of the survey, and states the estimated time required for participating in the survey. Interviewers must ask if the respondent received the letter and, if not, provide a copy and allow the respondent sufficient time to read the contents. Also, interviewers provide households with the pamphlet *The U.S. Census Bureau Respects Your Privacy and Protects Your Personal*

*Information* (Attachment F) and *Fact Sheet for the Current Population Survey* (Attachment G), which further states the confidentiality assurances associated with this data collection effort and the U.S. Census Bureau's past performance in assuring confidentiality).

All information given by respondents to U.S. Census Bureau employees is held in strict confidence under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9 (see Attachment A). Every U.S. Census Bureau employee has taken an oath to that effect and is subject to a jail penalty and/or substantial fine if they disclose any information given to them.

#### **A.11. Questions of a Sensitive Nature**

The AABS does not include any questions of a sensitive nature.

#### **A.12. Estimate of Hour Burden**

The estimated respondent burden is 2,400 hours in total for fiscal years (FY) 2018 and 2019. This is based on an average 4-minute interview for each of the 18,000 adults ages 18 years and older in the supplement universe each year. This estimate was based on the time required to answer similar questions in previous AABS waves.

The actual respondent burden is dependent upon the size of the household and the characteristics of its occupants. In some households, two supplement questionnaires will be asked.

#### **A.13. Estimate of Cost Burden**

There are no costs to respondents other than that of their time to respond.

#### **A.14. Cost to Federal Government**

The estimated cost to the government of the supplement on public participation in the arts is \$250,000, which will be borne by the NEA. The CPS program is anticipated to cost \$86 million in FY 2017. Those costs are borne by the U.S. Census Bureau, the BLS, and other government agencies.

#### **A.15. Reasons for Program Changes**

This information collection does not represent any program change.

#### **A.16. Project Schedule**

The first four years of the AABS were conducted in FY 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, and those questions serve as the basis for the FY 2018 and FY 2019 surveys. The finalized instrument and instructions will be delivered to the U.S. Census Bureau in August 2017. Main data collections for the AABS are expected to occur in February of 2018 and 2019, since they will be supplements to the February 2018 and 2019 CPS. Processing of this supplement will begin following data collection. The public use files as well as summary reports are expected to be released in the following year after data collection.

#### **A.17. Request to Not Display Expiration Date**

The NEA does not wish to display the assigned expiration date of the information collection. The

CPS requires two OMB control numbers and two expiration dates because the survey consists of two parts: the basic questionnaire and a supplemental questionnaire, which differ from month to month. The OMB control number and expiration date for conducting the Basic CPS are included in the survey's advance letter (Attachment E). To avoid confusion, the expiration date of the supplemental questionnaire is not included in the letter.

**A.18. Exceptions to the Certification**

There are no exceptions to the certification.