

# Research Awards

## GUIDELINES

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## Research Awards FY24 Guidelines

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### Sidebars for Website

Landing Page:

Research Grants in the Arts

NEA Research Labs

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Contact: <a href="mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov">nearesearchgrants@arts.gov</a>	Contact: <a href="mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov">nearesearchgrants@arts.gov</a>
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# RESEARCH AWARDS

(Landing Page)

## Priority Research Topics

FY 2022-2026



**1** What are measurable impacts of the arts?

**2** In what ways do the arts contribute to the healing and revitalization of communities?



**3** What is the state of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the arts?

**4** How is the U.S. arts ecosystem adapting and responding to social, economic, and technological changes and challenges to the sector?



View full [infographic](#)

The National Endowment for the Arts invites applicants to engage with the [agency's five-year research agenda](#) through two funding opportunities for research projects:

- [Research Grants in the Arts](#) funds research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. Matching/cost share grants of \$20,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded.
- [NEA Research Labs](#) funds transdisciplinary research teams grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, yielding empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike. Matching/cost share grants of \$100,000 to \$200,000 will be awarded.

## RESEARCH GRANTS IN THE ARTS

### Application Calendar for the FY 2024 Cycle\*

<b>Part 1 - Submit to Grants.gov</b>	<b>March 27, 2023 at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time</b>
<i>Prepare application material so that it's ready to upload when the Applicant Portal opens</i>	
<b>Part 2 - Submit to Applicant Portal</b>	<b>March 30-April 6, 2023 at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time</b>
<b>Earliest Announcement of Grant Award or Rejection</b>	<b>November 2023</b>
<b>Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project</b>	<b>January 1, 2024</b>

\*We plan to use these same guidelines for up to three years, to coincide with the NEA's FY 2022-2026 Research Agenda. As such, we expect these instructions to be used also for the FY 2025 and FY 2026 competitions, which will have Grants.gov deadlines in late March 2024 and late March 2025, respectively. Deadlines for FYs 2025 and 2026, respectively, will be posted in January 2024 and January 2025. Please monitor our website for updates.

**Before applying, your organization must create and maintain up-to-date registrations with both the System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).** Registering and maintaining accounts with SAM and Grants.gov is always FREE. See [How to Apply](#) for more information.

**Registration in SAM.gov and Grants.gov can take several weeks. Give yourself plenty of time to get registered. Similarly, submit your application to Grants.gov well in advance of the deadline in case you encounter any difficulties.**

**Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Exceptions to the deadline will be considered only for registration or renewal issues or technical malfunctions that are the result of failures on the part of SAM, Grants.gov, or NEA systems, as determined by the NEA. To be considered for this exception, you must provide documentation of a SAM, Grants.gov, or NEA systems failure that prevented your submission by the deadline.

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Do not seek information on the status of your application before the announcement date that is listed above.

The NEA is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and fostering mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all individuals and groups.

### Questions?

Email: [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov)

### Access for individuals with disabilities:



Contact the Office of Accessibility at 202-682-5532 / [accessibility@arts.gov](mailto:accessibility@arts.gov) or the Office of Civil Rights at [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov) to request an accommodation or an alternate format of the guidelines.

## Research Grants in the Arts

### Program Description

#### Deadlines:

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Research Grants in the Arts support research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life.

With these guidelines, the NEA welcomes research proposals that address priority topics and possible questions as outlined in the agency's FY 2022-2026 research agenda [LINK](#). The priority topics are described below. Note: for each of the four topics, the research agenda also lists several "related sample questions" that may be used or adapted by applicants to the Research Grants in the Arts program. Applicants are strongly urged to consult this more detailed list.

- **What are measurable impacts of the arts on the following outcome areas:** health and wellness for individuals; cognition and learning; and U.S. economic growth and innovation? Under what conditions do such impacts occur, through what mechanisms, and for which populations and/or sectors?
- **In what ways do the arts contribute to the healing and revitalization of communities?** What factors mediate these contributions, and for the benefit of which populations? What are common elements of such programs or practices, and what are appropriate measures of success?
- **What is the state of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the arts?** What progress has been made in achieving these outcomes for arts administration, employment, learning, and participation? What are some promising practices and/or replicable strategies in these domains, and what are appropriate measures of success?
- **How is the U.S. arts ecosystem (e.g., arts organizations and venues, artists and arts workers, and participants and learners) adapting and responding** to social, economic, and technological changes and challenges to the sector, including trends accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic? What are promising practices and/or replicable strategies for responding to such forces, for different segments of the arts ecosystem?

## Research Grants in the Arts

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Proposals to the Research Grants in the Arts program should align with at least one of the aforementioned topics, and, if possible, address research questions identical or similar to the related sample questions in the NEA’s research agenda for FY 2022-2026.

### Projects and Research Methods

As in previous years, we welcome applications from diverse research fields (e.g., economics; psychology; education; sociology; medicine, health, and therapy; communications; business administration; urban and regional planning). We expect our total awards portfolio to be diverse in terms of geographical distribution, the artistic and research fields or disciplines involved, and the research topics proposed. We also expect our portfolio to reflect an array of study design characteristics.

Accordingly, applicants may propose research projects drawing from a range of study design types. In recent years, the NEA has supported a growing cohort of studies that hypothesize a cause-effect relationship between the arts and key outcomes of interest (e.g., in health, education, or the economy). **For projects seeking to explore causal claims about the arts,** experimental approaches (e.g., randomized controlled trials) are generally preferred. Where experimental approaches are not feasible, then high-quality, quasi-experimental design studies offer an attractive alternative for impact studies about the arts.

In many cases, however, other or different study design characteristics will be preferable. These designs may include, but are not limited to, case studies, complex surveys, mixed methods, and meta-analyses. **In particular, we encourage community-based participatory research approaches where warranted** by the research objective. Program evaluations also are eligible for funding.

The NEA research agenda states that, through such awards, the agency will “incentivize the creation of practitioner tools grounded in research.” In keeping with this aim, we especially welcome translational research that moves scientific evidence toward the **development, testing, and standardization of new arts-related programs, practices, models, or tools** that can be used easily by other practitioners and researchers.

### Data Sources and Analysis

Projects supported under this program *must* include data analysis activities that occur during the period of performance, and can include either primary and/or secondary/archival data sources. We do not fund projects that focus *exclusively* on data acquisition.

*Primary* data sources refer to research data or information that **did not** exist prior to the project **and** that 1) will be actively collected by the applicant during the period of performance and 2) is part of the project budget.

*Secondary/archival* data sources refer to research data or information that was or will be actively collected outside of the period of performance and is not part of the project budget.



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Examples of this might include an existing dataset or archival information that applicants plan to analyze under an NEA award.

Data analysis may include quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed-method approaches. Data sources may include, but are not limited to, surveys, censuses, biological or medical experiments, observations, interviews, focus groups, social media activity, administrative data, and transactional/financial data. Other examples of data sources include archived materials such as written documents, audio/video recordings, or photographs and images.

We welcome the use of data in both the public and private domain, including commercial and/or administrative data sources. [Visit the NEA website](#) for a partial list of publicly available datasets that include arts-related variables. Some of these datasets are also available through the NEA's public data repository: the [National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture](#) (NADAC).

### We do not fund

- Projects that do not include a focus on a priority topic outlined in the NEA's research agenda.
- Projects that focus exclusively on data acquisition.
- Projects that do not include data analysis.
- Projects that focus exclusively on conducting a literature review.
- Project activities that include the *creation and/or installation* of public art as part of the proposed project activities and budget. *Public art* refers to the commissioning and installation of artwork in public spaces, such as temporary or permanent outdoor furnishings (e.g., benches or market structures), or other artwork such as a sculpture or mural that is temporarily or permanently installed in public spaces.
- Seasonal or general operating support.
- Costs of physical construction or renovation, or the purchase costs of facilities or land.

See the [General Terms and Conditions for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Organizations](#) for more information on unallowable costs and activities.

### Recommended Partnerships

Although not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to include project teams that enable substantial input and participation from arts practitioners *and* researchers/evaluators. If applicants do not already have research staff in their organizations, then they are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other organizations, entities, or individuals who will be able to support the technical requirements of the research project. By the same token, applicants that do not have an arts practitioner serving on the project are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other organizations, entities, or individuals who will be able to provide any artistic or arts field perspectives as needed.

### Award Information

We anticipate awarding 10 to 20 grants, based on the availability of funding.

Grants will range from \$20,000 to \$100,000. For projects that intend solely to use pre-existing data—**and** that will not involve primary data collection—we anticipate making awards in the \$20,000-\$50,000 range. Projects that include primary data collection as part of the research activities are eligible for awards between \$20,000 and \$100,000.

Grants cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. All grants require a nonfederal cost share/match of at least 1 to 1. These cost share/matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, and can include federally-negotiated indirect costs. You may include in your Project Budget cost share/matching funds that are proposed but not yet committed at the time of the application deadline.

In developing an application, we urge all applicants to consider the grant award levels of recent awards and to request a realistic grant amount. Applicants should review the [lists of grants](#) on our website to see recent grant award levels and project types.

Applicants whose projects are recommended for less than the requested amount will have the opportunity to revise the project budget to reflect any necessary changes to the project, based on the recommended funding amount.

We reserve the right to limit our support of a project to a particular phase(s) or cost(s). All costs included in your Project Budget must be expended during your period of performance. Costs associated with other federal funds, whether direct or indirect (e.g., flow down through a state arts agency), can't be included in your Project Budget. No pre-award costs are allowable in the Project Budget. **Costs incurred before the earliest project start date of January 1, 2024, can't be included in your budget or cost share/match.**

We expect our awards portfolio to be diverse in terms of research focus area, research design, and geographical distribution.

All applications submitted and grants made in response to these guidelines are subject to the NEA's grant regulations and terms and conditions.

### Period of Performance

Our support of a project may start on or after January 1, 2024. Grants generally may cover a period of performance of up to three years. Projects that extend beyond one year will be required to submit an annual progress report, and must include updated ethics training on human subjects research protections and Institutional Review Board (IRB) materials as necessary.

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A grantee may not receive more than one NEA grant for the same activities during the same period of performance.

### Applicant Eligibility

Official applicant organizations must be:

- Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations;
- Units of state or local government; or
- Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes.

This may include colleges and universities.

For projects that involve multiple organizations, *one organization that meets the eligibility requirements below* must act as the official applicant, submit the application, and assume full responsibility for the grant. Partnering organizations are not required to meet the eligibility requirements below.

To be eligible, the official applicant organization **must**:

- Meet the NEA's "Legal Requirements," including nonprofit, tax-exempt status at the time of application. (All organizations must apply directly on their own behalf. Applications through a fiscal sponsor/agent are not allowed. [See more information on fiscal sponsors/agents.](#)) [LINK](#)
- Have completed a three-year history of operations prior to the application deadline.

Eligible organizations that received American Rescue Plan (ARP) or CARES Act funding may apply to this program as long as there are no overlapping costs during the same grant period.

All applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)), and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and should a grant be made, throughout the life of the award.

The following are **not** eligible to apply as the official applicant organization:

- The designated 50 state and six jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and their regional arts organizations (RAOs). SAAs and RAOs may serve as partners in projects. However, they may not receive NEA funds (except as provided through their designated grant programs), and SAA/RAO costs may not be included as part of the required cost share/match. SAAs and RAOs are eligible to apply through the Partnership Agreements guidelines.
- An organization whose primary purpose is to channel resources (financial, human, or other) to an affiliated organization if the affiliated organization submits its own application. This prohibition applies even if each organization has its own 501(c)(3) status. For example, the "Friends of ABC Museum" may not apply if the ABC Museum applies.

### **Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Applications **will not** be transferred from Research Grants in the Arts to NEA Research Labs or vice versa.

Competition for Research Grants in the Arts is extremely rigorous. It is expected that an applicant organization selected to receive an award will complete the research project. We will not transfer the award to another organization.

### Application Limits

- An organization may submit more than one application under these Research Grants in the Arts guidelines. In each case, the request must be for a **distinctly different project**. However, an organization will not receive more than one Research Grants in the Arts award in any given cycle.
- Applicants to the Research Grants in the Arts program may apply to other NEA funding opportunities, within the same fiscal year, including NEA Research Labs. However, each request must be for a **distinctly different project**.
- An organization will not receive both a Research Grants in the Arts award and a new NEA Research Lab award in the same fiscal year.

### Application Review

#### Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the basis of agency-wide criteria of artistic **excellence** and artistic **merit**. For the Research Awards programs, artistic excellence and artistic merit can be considered as research excellence and research merit, respectively, as they relate to the bullets below.

The following are considered during the review of applications:

Artistic Excellence of the Project:

- **Is the research plan clear and effective?** This includes the conceptual framework, research design, sampling techniques and/or data sources, and the proposed analytical methods, in addition to the relationship of these elements to the proposed research questions. This also includes the appropriateness of the research questions to the Research Grants in the Arts program.
- **Is there a sufficient evidence base for the research plan?** This includes evidence that the project is informed by a literature review and/or citations of previous work or research (either published or unpublished) that support the conceptual

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framework and proposed research plan (including the study design and analytical methods).

- **Are the organization, its partners, and project personnel qualified to execute the research plan?** This includes credentials and past accomplishments in conducting research of the type proposed. As appropriate, discussion of planned or actual ethics training on human subjects research protections for relevant personnel, and the project's Institutional Review Board (IRB) plans and/or status. This also includes the appropriateness of the research and/or artistic disciplines represented on the project team.
- **Does the project include effective strategies, including quality control measures, to document progress and success during the period of performance?** This includes any milestones that the organization plans to achieve during the project as well as beyond the life of the grant. This also includes any processes that ensure fidelity of the data collection/analysis and program/therapy implementation through routine monitoring and oversight.
- **Have the organization and partners devoted adequate resources to execute the entire project?** This includes appropriateness of the budget, other resources, and the degree of involvement by project personnel.

### Artistic Merit of the Project:

- Does the project have high potential to bridge arts-related research with policy and/or practice in at least one of the following ways:
  - Likely to yield results that are generalizable, even for discrete populations or practitioner groups.
  - Likely to spur innovation in arts-related research, policy, or practice—e.g., through the development, testing, and standardization of models, tools, or evidence-based guides.
  - Likely to allow more than one field, sector, or population subgroup to benefit from arts-related research.
- Where appropriate, likely to yield results benefiting historically underserved groups/communities, including those for whom there are limited opportunities to experience the arts and arts-related benefits.
- Does the project include effective strategies to promote and disseminate the research results, products, and data? This includes distribution strategies to make the research findings, products, and data accessible to the public and to other researchers and practitioners, beyond the materials that would be posted to the NEA's website. This also may include a record of past accomplishments in publishing or distributing research results, and the data management plan, as appropriate.

### What Happens to Your Application

After processing by our staff, applications are reviewed, in closed session, by interdisciplinary research and evaluation advisory panelists. Each panel comprises a diverse group of arts-research experts and other individuals, including at least one knowledgeable layperson. Panels are convened remotely. Panel membership changes regularly. The panel recommends the projects to be supported, and the staff reconciles panel recommendations with the funds that are available. These recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts, where they are reviewed in an open, public session.

The Council makes recommendations to the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chair reviews the recommendations for grants in all funding categories and makes the final decision on all grant awards. Applicants are then notified of funding decisions. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of award or rejection in November 2023.

NOTE: All recommended applications undergo review to evaluate risk posed by the applicant prior to making a federal award. This may include past performance on grants and cooperative agreements, meeting reporting deadlines, compliance with terms and conditions, audit findings, etc.

After notification, applicants with questions may contact the staff. **Any applicant whose request has not been recommended may ask for an explanation of the basis for denial. In such instances, the NEA must be contacted no later than 30 calendar days after the official notification.**

### How to Apply

Submitting an application is a multi-step process:

- **Register** with Login.gov, [SAM](#) and [Grants.gov](#) or renew/verify these registrations.
- **Part 1:** Submit to Grants.gov the “Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form.” This is a brief form that will collect very basic information about your organization. A direct link to the Grants.gov Opportunity Package is included further down this on this page.
- **Part 2:** Complete the “Grant Application Form (GAF)” and upload items through the NEA’s Applicant Portal. This web form is where you will enter the majority of your application material (e.g., project description, timelines, budget information).

Login.gov, SAM, Grants.gov (Part 1), and the NEA’s Applicant Portal (Part 2) are all separate online systems.

### All Applicants: Registration and Renewal

Applying for a federal grant for the first time? [See here](#).

#### Register with Login.gov, SAM and Grants.gov or renew/verify these registrations

Before applying, your organization must create and maintain up-to-date registrations with Login.gov, the System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](#), and [Grants.gov](#). Registering and maintaining accounts with SAM and Grants.gov is always FREE.

These registrations can take several weeks to finalize, so begin this process early! Registrations with Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov must be active for you to submit your application. Finalize your registrations well before the application deadline. This should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise.

We recommend that you register in the following order:

1. Login.gov
2. SAM
3. Grants.gov

Both SAM and Grants.gov will require you to use your Login.gov username and password to log in to their sites.

#### Login.gov Registration

Go to [Create an account](#) to set up your Login.gov account. This account will allow you to access many government websites, including both SAM and Grants.gov.

#### SAM Registration

Go to [SAM Entity Registration](#) to get started on a new registration, or to renew/check the status of an existing registration.

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Your SAM registration must be current at the time a grant is made, and throughout the life of the award. SAM registrations, once activated, can take a day or more to be visible in Grants.gov. Verify your SAM registration well ahead of the application deadline.

When registering/renewing your SAM account, you must select “Yes” when completing the “Representations & Certifications” section. All awardees are required to have these representations & certifications in order to receive an award.

### Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

To apply for federal funds, organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier, also known as a “UEI.” The UEI is a 12-character alpha numeric value that will be assigned by SAM for free during the registration process. Organizations can find their UEI in their SAM record.

If you have difficulty locating the UEI, contact SAM at 1-866-606-8220 or see the [help section](#) of SAM’s website.

### [Grants.gov Registration](#)

New Applicants:

- If your organization is not yet registered with Grants.gov, go to [Organization Registration](#), after setting up your Login.gov account, and registering with SAM.
- During the Grants.gov registration process, you will be asked to set up a separate username and password for Grants.gov.
- After creating your Grants.gov account, you may link your Grants.gov and Login.gov accounts.
- After linking accounts, you will use your Login.gov credentials each time you sign in to Grants.gov.

Returning Applicants:

- If your organization already has registered with Grants.gov, renew your registration with SAM and verify that your registration with Grants.gov is current.
- If you have not already linked your Grants.gov and Login.gov accounts, you will be prompted to link your accounts when you click the “login” button on Grants.gov.

You must complete the Grants.gov registration process to access the Part 1 application package (see below). You will need the Login.gov Username and Password that you obtain during the registration process to submit your application, and you won’t be able to submit your application unless your SAM registration is active and up-to-date.

### [Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov Help](#)

The NEA does not have access to your Login.gov, SAM, or Grants.gov accounts. If you have any questions about or need assistance with these sites, including questions regarding electronic accessibility, contact them directly:



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- **Login.gov Help:** Consult the information posted in their [Help Center](#), or use their [online form](#) to submit a question.
- **SAM Federal Service Desk:** Call 1-866-606-8220 or see the information posted on the SAM website at [SAM Help](#).
- **Grants.gov Contact Center:** Call 1-800-518-4726, email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov), or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov website at [Support](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Part 1: Go to the Grant Opportunity Package

**Access the Grant Opportunity Package** with the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form on Grants.gov by clicking on the link below:

Research Grants in the Arts  
[Funding Opportunity Number 2023NEA01ORAGRANTS]

1. Clicking the link above will take you **directly** to the pre-populated application package in Grants.gov.
2. The Grants.gov “View Grant Opportunity” screen will open; click the red “Apply” button.
3. You will be prompted to login. In order to create the Workspace application, you must be logged into Grants.gov with a participant role of either **Workspace Manager** or **Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)**. More information on participant roles can be found [here](#).
4. After logging in, to create a Workspace application:
  - a. Fill in the Application Filing Name field with your organization name, then
  - b. Click the **Create Workspace** button.
5. Afterwards, you will be directed to the Manage Workspace page, where you can begin working on the application.

Learn more about using Grants.gov’s Workspace [here](#).

### Application Questions and Instructions:

Full instructions on how to complete both Part 1 and Part 2, including the application questions, and a link to the NEA Applicant Portal for Part 2, can be found in this PDF document.

[Instructions on completing Part 1 and Part 2.](#)

#### Tips:

##### View the Guidelines Webinar:

- We will conduct a live webinar on TBD featuring an overview presentation followed by a Q&A session. [Link to registration information.](#)
- An archived recording will be available on the [Applicant Resources](#) page.

**View the Grant Application Form (GAF) Tutorial:**

This tutorial provides an overview of the Grant Application Form (GAF) to assist you during Part 2 of the application process: [Online Tutorial: Using the Grant Application Form](#).

**Application updates after submission:**

Send new information that significantly affects your application (such as changes in project personnel, confirmed funding commitments, or IRB status) as soon as possible to the NEA Research Awards staff. Remember to include your organization's name and NEA application number.

**If you have questions about your application, contact the NEA Research Awards staff at [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov).**

## NEA RESEARCH LABS

### Application Calendar for the FY 2024 Cycle\*

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Contact the Office of Accessibility at 202-682-5532 / [accessibility@arts.gov](mailto:accessibility@arts.gov) or the Office of Civil Rights at [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov) to request an accommodation or an alternate format of the guidelines.

## Program Description

### Deadlines:

<b>Part 1 - Submit to Grants.gov</b>	<b>March 27, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time</b>
<i>Prepare application material so that it's ready to upload when the Applicant Portal opens</i>	
<b>Part 2 - Submit to Applicant Portal</b>	<b>March 30-April 6, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time</b>
<b>Earliest Announcement of Award or Rejection</b>	<b>November 2023</b>
<b>Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project</b>	<b>NEA Research Labs: January 1, 2024</b>

The NEA Research Labs program funds transdisciplinary research teams grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, yielding empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.

Established in FY 2017, the NEA Research Labs continue to build public knowledge about the arts and their contributions to individuals, communities, and society at large. Through this program, we are cultivating transdisciplinary research partnerships that are producing research findings and evidence-based tools of value not only to arts practitioners, but also to non-arts sectors such as healthcare, education, and business or management. Institutions of higher education and/or nonprofit research and policy organizations may submit applications to be NEA Research Labs.

The NEA Research Labs program offers grant funding for longer-term research agendas. These agendas will include multiple research studies and activities that build and inform the field throughout the life of an NEA Research Lab. Applicants seeking grant funding for a specific and discrete research study should refer to the Research Grants in the Arts program guidelines.

Each NEA Research Lab will design a transdisciplinary research agenda, conduct project activities to execute that agenda, and prepare and disseminate reports and other products or services that will contribute substantively to a wider understanding of one of the following research areas of special interest to the NEA:

#### 1) Measuring the Impacts of the Arts:

- a) On U.S. Economic Growth, and/or Innovation
- b) On Cognition and Learning
- c) On Health and Wellness for Individuals

#### 2) Monitoring and Improving Systems:

- a) Community Health and/or Revitalization
- b) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Arts

### c) Other Aspects of the Arts Ecology

These research areas correspond with priority topics and related questions identified in the NEA's research agenda for FY 2022-2026. [LINK TO PLAN](#) Applicants are strongly urged to consult the agenda for detailed descriptions of each priority topic and for related sample questions.

NEA Research Labs serve as “hubs” or centers of excellence in the domain of interest. Each NEA Research Lab will develop a pipeline of projects or products, including a website, while conducting at least one major study. More detail on NEA Research Labs activities can be found in the “NEA Research Lab Project Activities” section.

### Projects and Research Methods

As in previous years, we welcome applications from diverse research fields (e.g., economics; psychology; education; sociology; medicine, health, and therapy; communications; business administration; urban and regional planning). We expect our total awards portfolio to be diverse in terms of geographical distribution, the artistic and research fields or disciplines involved, and the research topics proposed. We also expect our portfolio to reflect an array of study design characteristics.

Accordingly, applicants may propose research projects drawing from a range of study design types. In recent years, the NEA has supported a growing cohort of studies that hypothesize a cause-effect relationship between the arts and key outcomes of interest (e.g., in health, education, or the economy). **For projects seeking to explore causal claims about the arts**, experimental approaches (e.g., randomized controlled trials) are preferred. Where experimental approaches are not feasible, then high-quality, quasi-experimental design studies offer an attractive alternative for impact studies about the arts.

In many cases, however, other or different study design characteristics will be preferable. These designs may include, but are not limited to, case studies, complex surveys, mixed methods, and meta-analyses. **In particular, we encourage community-based participatory research approaches where warranted** by the research objective. Program evaluations also are eligible for funding.

The NEA research agenda states that through such awards, the agency will “incentivize the creation of practitioner tools grounded in research.” In keeping with this aim, we especially welcome translational research that moves scientific evidence toward the **development, testing, and standardization of new arts-related programs, practices, models, or tools** that can be used easily by other practitioners and researchers. This function is especially important to NEA Research Labs, which should be prepared to contribute products and services not only for the research community but for practitioners in the arts and other sectors.

## Data Sources and Analysis

Project supported under this program *must* include data analysis activities that occur during the period of performance, and can include either primary and/or secondary/archival data sources. We do not fund projects that focus *exclusively* on data acquisition.

*Primary* data sources refer to research data or information that **did not** exist prior to the project **and** that 1) will be actively collected by the applicant during the period of performance and 2) is part of the project budget.

*Secondary/archival* data sources refer to research data or information that was or will be actively collected outside of the period of performance and is not part of the project budget. Examples of this might include an existing dataset or archival information that applicants plan to analyze under an NEA award.

Data analysis for the research studies may include quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed-method approaches. Data sources may include but are not limited to, surveys, censuses, biological or medical experiments, observations, interviews, focus groups, social media activity, administrative data, and transactional/financial data. Other examples of data sources include archived materials such as written documents, audio/video recordings, or photographs and images.

We welcome the use of data in both the public and private domain, including commercial and/or administrative data sources. [Visit the NEA website](#) for a partial list of publicly available datasets that include arts-related variables. Some of these datasets are also available through the NEA's public data repository: the [National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture](#) (NADAC).

## We do not fund

- Projects that do not include a focus on a priority topic outlined in the NEA's research agenda.
- Projects that focus exclusively on data acquisition.
- Projects that do not include data analysis.
- Projects that focus exclusively on conducting a literature review.
- Project activities that include the *creation* and/or installation of public art as part of the proposed project activities and budget. *Public art* refers to the commissioning and installation of artwork in public spaces, such as temporary or permanent outdoor furnishings (e.g., benches or market structures), or other artwork such as a sculpture or mural that is temporarily or permanently installed in public spaces.
- Seasonal or general operating support.
- Costs of physical construction or renovation, or the purchase costs of facilities or land.

See the [General Terms and Conditions for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Organizations](#) LINK for more information on unallowable costs and activities.

### Required Partnership

We aim to make arts-relevant research a shared endeavor (with shared benefits) for academic researchers, arts practitioners, stakeholders, and the greater public. Accordingly, the NEA Research Labs program requires a **confirmed** partnership between the official applicant organization and a nonprofit arts organization at the time of application. The nonprofit arts organization is expected to contribute substantially to the NEA Research Lab.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to partner with other non-arts or arts organizations (for-profit or nonprofit entities) with expertise in the proposed research topic area. We welcome organizations from sectors such as health, business, and science, and educational entities such as school districts or individual schools.

In addition to a required partnership with a nonprofit arts organization, NEA Research Labs are also required to develop and maintain a technical working group, including representatives from partner organizations and other experts in the field or a related field, to offer feedback to the NEA Research Lab on key project activities and deliverables. The technical working group will periodically review the activities conducted under this award and report back to the NEA Research Lab.

Applicants seeking funding for a specific, discrete research study that may or may not involve a partnering organization should consider applying to the Research Grants in the Arts program instead.

### NEA Research Lab Project Activities

Each NEA Research Lab will design and execute the following:

#### Research Agenda, Keystone Study, and Related Activities

- Choose one of the following research areas (described below) in which to develop and refine a multiyear research agenda. For detailed descriptions of NEA priority topics and related sample questions, applicants are directed to NEA's own research agenda for FY 2022-2026.

#### **1) Measuring the Impacts of the Arts:**

- a) On U.S. Economic Growth, and/or Innovation
- b) On Cognition and Learning
- c) On Health and Wellness for Individuals

#### **2) Monitoring and Improving Systems:**



## NEA Research Labs

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- a) Community Health and/or Revitalization
  - b) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Arts
  - c) Other Aspects of the Arts Ecology
- Create an interdisciplinary core team of researchers of at least two different research disciplines to engage in all aspects of the NEA Research Lab. We encourage teams that include research personnel at various stages in their career (e.g., tenured professors, mid-career professionals, early-career professionals, graduate students, and postdocs).
  - As part of the multiyear Research Lab agenda and within the initial award's period of performance, conduct a keystone study or series of studies that addresses at least two key research questions under the topic area selected above (see the NEA's FY 2022-2026 research agenda [LINK](#) for sample research questions under each NEA priority topic).

As part of the multiyear research agenda, applicants must propose a plan for sustainability of the NEA Research Lab beyond the initial award's period of performance, including any potential plans to continue studies beyond the initial award's period of performance, and/or a pipeline of studies that the NEA Research Lab would start after the initial award's period of performance.

### Products and Services

- Develop, host, and regularly update a public website specifically about the NEA Research Lab. At minimum, this website should include a description of the NEA Research Lab and accompanying research agenda and studies and periodic updates on the progress of fulfilling the research agenda and related studies. The website should also carry information about key personnel and technical working group members and about research products, events, and resources associated with the NEA Research Lab agenda—including working products and in-press products, as well as conference presentations. Additional content will be based on a proposed dissemination plan and will draw upon guidance to be developed through an NEA technical assistance provider (See Administration section below). The NEA Research Labs visual identifier should be included in a prominent area of the website, the NEA Research Lab funding source should be clearly acknowledged, and appropriate disclaimers must be included.
- Produce at least one research report that documents the methods and findings of each research study.
- Through the NEA Research Lab website and other vehicles, disseminate research reports or other products, tools or services, data, or communications (e.g., literature reviews, research or policy briefs, white papers, blog posts, podcasts, webinars, and technical guides) to researchers, arts practitioners, and the general public.

## NEA Research Labs

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- Prepare and deliver at least two presentations per year, one to a community of researchers and the other to a community of arts practitioners.

### Administration

- Establish and support a technical working group. It will include representatives from partner organizations, and/or experts in distinct fields of practice or research that are needed to inform the work of the NEA Research Lab. The technical working group members will offer feedback to the NEA Research Lab on key project activities and deliverables. The technical working group will periodically review the activities conducted under this agreement and report back to the NEA Research Lab.
- Partake of technical assistance activities, as provided by the NEA, relevant to the NEA Research Labs program.
  - With guidance from the NEA Research Lab Technical Assistance provider, develop and implement a plan for communications and stakeholder engagement around the NEA Research Lab's activities.
  - Participate in an NEA Research Labs needs assessment process.
  - Participate in professional development and communications trainings, webinars, and web conferences.
- Participate in transdisciplinary NEA Research Labs meetings every six months that include multiple NEA Research Labs supported under the NEA Research Labs program. The meetings are expected to be audio-video conferences, with the possibility that one meeting per year will be conducted in person (or in a hybrid format). Costs for travel and subsistence for transdisciplinary NEA Research Labs meetings that occur in person are to be included in the total project budget for the NEA Research Lab award. The NEA Research Labs technical assistance provider will organize and schedule these meetings. In the event that a convening is not held, and/or travel is not required (e.g., if the event is virtual), those costs may be redirected to other allowable project activities.
- Obtain any necessary intellectual property rights, permissions, consents, licenses, and releases as appropriate to the project activities (the "Rights"), and provide to the NEA. The Rights may include, but are not limited to, approval from Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), and/or data licensing for the acquisition of existing data, as may be required (see Responsible Conduct of Research section).

### **Award Information**

Grants will range from \$100,000 to \$200,000, based on the availability of funding.

Grants cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. All grants require a nonfederal cost share/match of at least 1 to 1. These cost share/matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, and can include federally-negotiated indirect

costs. You may include in your Project Budget cost share/matching funds that are proposed but not yet committed at the time of the application deadline.

Applicants whose projects are recommended for less than the requested amount will have the opportunity to revise the project budget to reflect any necessary changes to the project, based on the recommended funding amount.

We reserve the right to limit our support of a project to a particular phase(s) or cost(s). All costs included in your Project Budget must be expended during your period of performance. Costs associated with other federal funds, whether direct or indirect (e.g., flow down through a state arts agency), can't be included in your Project Budget. No pre-award costs are allowable in the Project Budget. **Costs incurred before the earliest project start date of January 1, 2024, can't be included in your budget or cost share/match.**

All applications submitted and grants made in response to these guidelines are subject to the NEA's grant regulations and terms and conditions.

### Period of Performance

Our support of a project may start on or after January 1, 2024. The period of performance is a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months. An awardee may not receive more than one NEA award for the same activities during the same period of performance.

### Subsequent Awards

The NEA may enter into up to four subsequent renewal awards with the recipient of a NEA Research Labs grant for a project consistent with the intent of the program. Any such future awards, however, would be subject to agency priorities, the availability of funds, awardee performance, and the agency's regular review process.

### Applicant Eligibility

The official applicant must be an organization with research and policy as a principal focus for its core components, either as the primary work or as part of a transdisciplinary mission.

Eligible official applicants are:

- U.S. institutions of higher education, or
- Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations with a three-year history of commissioning and conducting research in the behavioral or social sciences, and communicating research findings and policy implications through reports and/or convenings, at the time of application.

NEA Research Labs require a partnership that involves multiple organizations. One organization that meets the eligibility requirements below must act as the official applicant, submit the application, and assume full responsibility for the grant. Partnering organizations are not required to meet the eligibility requirements below.

## NEA Research Labs

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To be eligible, the applicant organization must:

- Meet the NEA's "[Legal Requirements](#)" at the time of application. (All organizations must apply directly on their own behalf. Applications through a fiscal sponsor/agent are not allowed. [See more information on fiscal sponsors/agents.](#))

Eligible organizations that received American Rescue Plan (ARP) or CARES Act funding may apply to this program as long as there are no overlapping costs during the same grant period.

All applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and should an award be made, throughout the life of the award.

The following are not eligible to apply as the official applicant organization:

- Organizations that served as the official applicant for any previous NEA Research Labs award in any topic area. For a listing of previously awarded NEA Research Labs, see the [NEA Research Labs webpage](#).
- Organizations whose primary purpose is to channel resources (financial, human, or other) to an affiliated organization if the affiliated organization also submits its own application. This prohibition applies even if each organization has its own 501(c)(3) status. For example, the "Friends of ABC Organization" may not apply if the ABC Organization applies.

Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Applications **will not** be transferred from Research Grants in the Arts to NEA Research Labs or vice versa.

Competition for NEA Research Labs is extremely rigorous. It is expected that an applicant organization selected to receive an NEA Research Labs award will complete the proposed research project activities. We will not transfer the award to another organization.

### Application Limits

- An organization may submit more than one application under these NEA Research Labs guidelines. In each case, the request must be for a **distinctly different project**. However, an organization will not receive more than one new NEA Research Labs award.
- Applicants to the NEA Research Labs program may apply to other NEA funding opportunities within the same fiscal year, including Research Grants in the Arts. However, each proposal must be for a **distinctly different project**.

- An organization will not receive both a Research Grants in the Arts award and a new NEA Research Lab award in the same fiscal year.

### Application Review

Applications will be reviewed on the basis of agency-wide criteria of artistic **excellence** and artistic **merit**. For the Research Awards programs, artistic excellence and artistic merit can be considered as research excellence and research merit, respectively, as they relate to the bullets below.

The following are considered during the review of applications:

The artistic excellence of the planned project activities, specifically the:

- Clarity of the research agenda and project activities, including commitment to both short- and long-term project objectives. This includes the appropriateness of the project for the NEA Research Labs program, the coherence of the proposed project activities and their correspondence to the Lab's central theme or research agenda, and evidence that the research agenda is informed by extant literature, as appropriate.
- Clarity of the proposed keystone research study to be completed during the initial award period of performance, including the conceptual framework, research design, and analytical methods to be used, and the relationship of these elements to the proposed research questions. This includes, if relevant, the keystone study's Institutional Review Board plans and/or status.
- Research qualifications of the key project personnel and organizations involved, including the proposed technical working group. This includes the degree to which the mission and experience of the proposed research partners, or the nature of the interdisciplinary collaboration, advance the purposes of the NEA Research Labs program and the proposed keystone study. As appropriate, this includes discussion of planned or actual ethics training on human subjects research protections for relevant personnel.
- Ability to carry out the project on time and within budget, including the reasonableness of the budget.

The artistic merit of the planned project activities, specifically the:

- Potential of the project activities to yield empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.
- Novel or promising research questions, approaches, and/or methods.

- Plan to develop evidence-based products and/or services that will engage the scientific and artistic communities and the greater public regularly and throughout the period of performance.
- This includes plans to generate and release reports, articles, tools, programs or services, convenings, or data for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike. This also includes creative communication and distribution strategies to make the research findings, products, and data accessible to the public and to other researchers and practitioners.
- Potential for a sustained research program beyond the period of performance.
- Potential for raw- and/or meta-data to be shared with other researchers and the public, as applicable.

### What Happens to Your Application

After processing by our staff, applications are reviewed, in closed session, by interdisciplinary research and evaluation advisory panelists. Each panel comprises a diverse group of arts-research experts and other individuals, including at least one knowledgeable layperson. Panels are convened remotely. Panel membership changes regularly. The panel recommends the projects to be supported, and the staff reconciles panel recommendations with the funds that are available. These recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts, where they are reviewed in an open, public session.

The Council makes recommendations to the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chair reviews the recommendations for awards in all funding categories and makes the final decision on all awards. Applicants are then notified of funding decisions. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of award or rejection in November 2023.

NOTE: All recommended applications undergo review to evaluate risk posed by the applicant prior to making a federal award. This may include past performance on grants and cooperative agreements, meeting reporting deadlines, compliance with terms and conditions, audit findings, etc.

After notification, applicants with questions may contact the staff. **Any applicant whose request has not been recommended for funding may ask for an explanation of the basis for denial. In such instances, the NEA must be contacted no later than 30 calendar days after the official notification.**

## How to Apply

Submitting an application is a multi-step process:

- **Register** with Login.gov, [SAM](#) and [Grants.gov](#) or renew/verify these registrations.
- **Part 1:** Submit to Grants.gov the “Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form.” This is a brief form that will collect very basic information about your organization. A direct link to the Grants.gov Opportunity Package is included further down this on this page.
- **Part 2:** Complete the “Grant Application Form (GAF)” and upload items through the NEA’s Applicant Portal. This web form is where you will enter the majority of your application material (e.g., project description, timelines, budget information).

Login.gov, SAM, Grants.gov (Part 1), and the NEA’s Applicant Portal (Part 2) are separate online systems.

### All Applicants: Registration and Renewal

Applying for a federal grant for the first time? [See here](#).

#### [Register with Login.gov, SAM and Grants.gov or renew/verify these registrations](#)

Before applying, your organization must create and maintain up-to-date registrations with Login.gov, the System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](#), and [Grants.gov](#). Registering and maintaining accounts with SAM and Grants.gov is always FREE.

These registrations can take several weeks to finalize, so begin this process early! Registrations with SAM and Grants.gov must be active for you to submit your application. Finalize your registrations well before the application deadline. This should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise.

We recommend that you register in the following order:

1. Login.gov
2. SAM
3. Grants.gov

Both SAM and Grants.gov will require you to use your Login.gov username and password to log in to their sites.

#### [Login.gov Registration](#)

Go to [Create an account](#) to set up your Login.gov account. This account will allow you to access many government websites, including both SAM and Grants.gov.

### SAM Registration

Go to [SAM Entity Registration](#) to get started on a new registration, or to renew/check the status of an existing registration.

Your SAM registration must be current at the time a grant is made, and throughout the life of the award. SAM registrations, once activated, can take a day or more to be visible in Grants.gov. Verify your SAM registration well ahead of the application deadline.

When registering/renewing your SAM account, you must select “Yes” when completing the “Representations & Certifications” section. All awardees are required to have these representations & certifications in order to receive an award.

### Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

To apply for federal funds, organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier, also known as a “UEI.” The UEI is a 12-character alpha numeric value that will be assigned by SAM for free during the registration process. Organizations can find their UEI in their SAM record.

If you have difficulty locating the UEI, contact SAM at 1-866-606-8220 or see the [help section](#) of SAM’s website.

### Grants.gov Registration

New Applicants:

- If your organization is not yet registered with Grants.gov, go to [Organization Registration](#), after setting up your Login.gov account, and registering with SAM.
- During the Grants.gov registration process, you will be asked to set up a separate username and password for Grants.gov.
- After creating your Grants.gov account, you may link your Grants.gov and Login.gov accounts.
- After linking accounts, you will use your Login.gov credentials each time you sign in to Grants.gov.

Returning Applicants:

- If your organization already has registered with Grants.gov, renew your registration with SAM and verify that your registration with Grants.gov is current.
- If you have not already linked your Grants.gov and Login.gov accounts, you will be prompted to link your accounts when you click the “login” button on Grants.gov.

You must complete the Grants.gov registration process to access the Part 1 application package (see below). You will need the Login.gov Username and Password that you obtain during the registration process to submit your application, and you won’t be able to submit your application unless your SAM registration is active and up-to-date.



### Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov Help

The NEA does not have access to your Login.gov, SAM, or Grants.gov accounts. If you have any questions about or need assistance with these sites, including questions regarding electronic accessibility, contact them directly:

- **Login.gov Help:** Consult the information posted in their [Help Center](#), or use their [online form](#) to submit a question.
- **SAM Federal Service Desk:** Call 1-866-606-8220 or see the information posted on the SAM website at [SAM Help](#).
- **Grants.gov Contact Center:** Call 1-800-518-4726, email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov), or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov website at [Support](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Part 1: Go to the Grant Opportunity Package

**Access the Grant Opportunity Package** with the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form on Grants.gov by clicking on the link below:

NEA Research Labs

[Funding Opportunity Number 2023NEA01ORALABS]

1. Clicking the link above will take you **directly** to the pre-populated application package in Grants.gov.
2. The Grants.gov “View Grant Opportunity” screen will open; click the red “Apply” button.
3. You will be prompted to login. In order to create the Workspace application, you must be logged into Grants.gov with a participant role of either **Workspace Manager** or **Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)**. More information on participant roles can be found [here](#).
4. After logging in, to create a Workspace application:
  - a. Fill in the Application Filing Name field with your organization name, then
  - b. Click the **Create Workspace** button.
5. Afterwards, you will be directed to the Manage Workspace page, where you can begin working on the application.

Learn more about using Grants.gov’s Workspace [here](#).

### Application Questions and Instructions:

Full instructions on how to complete both Part 1 and Part 2, including the application questions, and a link to the NEA Applicant Portal for Part 2, can be found in this PDF document.

Instructions on completing Part 1 and Part 2 (**PDF**).

### Tips:

**View the Guidelines Webinar:**

- We will conduct a live webinar on TBD, featuring an overview presentation followed by a Q&A session. LINK to registration information.
- An archived recording will be available on the [Applicant Resources](#) page.

**View the Grant Application Form (GAF) Tutorial:**

This tutorial provides an overview of the Grant Application Form (GAF) to assist you during Part 2 of the application process: [Online Tutorial: Using the Grant Application Form](#)

**Application updates after submission:**

Send new information that significantly affects your application (such as changes in project personnel, confirmed funding commitments, or IRB status) as soon as possible to the NEA Research Awards staff. Remember to include your organization's name and NEA application number.

**If you have questions about your application, contact the NEA Research Awards staff at [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov).**

## RESEARCH AWARDS

(These items apply to both programs)

### Other Requirements and Priorities

#### Responsible Conduct of Research

The NEA is committed to the responsible conduct of research. As such, the NEA requires applicants to comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the conduct of research in the United States. We further require applicants to obtain permissions (including but not limited to the acquisition of existing data) from all appropriate entities or individuals (including but not limited to minors or other sensitive populations) for conducting the proposed project and to include evidence of such permissions in the application material. These may include, but are not limited to, approval from Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), and/or data licensing for the acquisition of existing data, as may be required.

Data collection activities conducted under an award are the sole responsibility of the recipient organization, and the NEA's support of the project does not constitute approval of those data collection procedures. Therefore, data collected from respondents/participants will be conducted by the awardee or at the awardee's direction, and any NEA-funded researchers collecting data from respondents/participants may not represent to those subjects that such data are being collected on the NEA's behalf.

Applicants who propose *primary data collection* as part of their projects are required to describe plans and/or status of ethics training on human subjects research protections, including such aspects as working with minors and other sensitive populations, as well as the role of IRBs. Evidence can take the form of an active, unexpired certificate of completion of a training module. The NEA does not specify or endorse any specific educational programs. Training evidence must be submitted at the time of application for **all key personnel** involved with primary data collection or analysis of personally identifiable information from human research subjects. The NEA will not reimburse costs for ethics training under either the Research Grants in the Arts program or the NEA Research Labs program. Awardees are required to submit evidence of ethics training on human subjects research protections to the NEA prior to engaging in any activity related to human research subjects, as well as submit updated ethics training documentation as relevant. The NEA may withhold funds until ethics training is demonstrated.

In addition, applicants who include *primary data collection* as a proposed project activity are required to provide an explanation for whether IRB approval is needed to execute the project. If IRB approval is required, then applicants also must indicate the measures they have taken or plan on taking to gain IRB approval. If multiple organizations are directly involved in human subjects research for a proposed project, then the applicant must provide documentation from those organizations as well. Awardees are required to submit IRB approval documentation to

the NEA prior to engaging in any activity determined to require IRB approval, as well as submit updated IRB documentation as relevant. The NEA may withhold funds until IRB approval is demonstrated.

If an applicant organization does not already have an IRB, awardees are required to partner and/or consult with another institution or organization that does to determine whether IRB approval is necessary for your project. Costs of submitting research proposals to IRBs are allowable if this activity takes place during the award period of performance; however, the application proposal must include evidence that the applicant has consulted with their preferred IRB or IRBs.

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) provides additional guidance and resources for learning about the responsible conduct of research, including [decision charts for assessing whether a project needs an IRB/research ethics review](#), a set of [free training modules](#) (which can be used to provide evidence of ethics training for an NEA research application), and a [database of registered IRBs](#); the [National Science Foundation](#) also has resources related to IRB and human subjects research protections.

### Research about Arts Education

Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, the NEA supports the Arts Education Partnership, which has launched an online clearinghouse of more than 300 studies of student and educator outcomes associated with arts education in both in-school and out-of-school settings. If you are interested in submitting a proposal to investigate some aspect of arts education or related variables and outcomes, you are encouraged to explore [ArtsEdSearch](#) for summaries of previous studies, [criteria for inclusion in the ArtsEdSearch database](#), discussion of policy implications, and suggested areas for future research.

Separately, the [State Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education](#) offers a suite of resources and tools to help stakeholders in the arts extract, analyze, and report on data about arts education.

### Data Management and Sharing

We intend primarily for the Research Grants in the Arts program and the NEA Research Labs program to generate new findings that will inform the public about the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. To help build capacity and continuity for such research in subsequent years, we require applicants to submit a *data management plan* documenting how any raw data and meta-data resulting from the proposed project will be used and maintained during and beyond the life of the award. Applicants should discuss confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other relevant rights or requirements (to include but not be limited to securing and handling / deidentification of Protected Health Information (PHI) and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)). This may include referencing the [HIPAA Privacy Rule](#), IRB status, and permissions and/or protections of minors and other sensitive populations, as appropriate.

Costs of storing and/or sharing data are allowable if these data management activities take place during the award period.

### National Archive of Data on Arts and Culture (NADAC)

The [National Archive of Data on Arts and Culture](#) (NADAC) is a repository that facilitates research on arts and culture by acquiring and archiving data, particularly those funded by federal agencies and other public organizations, and making the data and a variety of data tools freely available to researchers, arts and cultural practitioners, other stakeholders, and the general public.

Contact [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov) to learn about opportunities for research awardees to deposit their raw- and meta-data in the archive.

## Award Administration

### Award Notices

The "Earliest Announcement of Grant Award or Rejection" date for your category on the [Application Calendar](#) tells you when we expect to announce grant decisions.

Note that the "announcement" is likely to take the form of a preliminary congratulatory message, a request for project/budget revisions, or a rejection notification. The official grant award notification (i.e., a notice of action authorized by the NEA Office of Grants Management) is the only legal and valid confirmation of award. Receipt of your official award notification can take several months depending on a number of factors such as reviewing changes to the project budget, the number of awards to be processed, whether the agency has its appropriation from Congress, etc.

### Final Reporting

Before a grant is awarded, organizations must have submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all NEA grant(s) previously received.

### Accessibility

Federal regulations require that all NEA-funded projects be accessible to people with disabilities, including audiences, visitors, artists, performers, teaching artists, students, staff, and volunteers. Funded activities must be held in a physically accessible venue and program access and effective communication must be provided for participants and audience members with disabilities, including people who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing, people who are blind, and people with physical, cognitive, sensory, and/or psychological disabilities.

If your project is recommended for funding, you will be asked to provide detailed information describing how you will make your project physically and programmatically accessible to people with disabilities:

- Buildings and facilities (including projects held in historic facilities) should be physically accessible. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Ground-level/no-step entry, ramped access, and/or elevators to project facilities and outdoor spaces;
  - Integrated and dispersed wheelchair seating in assembly areas;
  - Wheelchair-accessible box office, stage/backstage, meeting, and dressing rooms;
  - Wheelchair-accessible display cases, exhibit areas, and counters;
  - Accessible studio, classroom, and work spaces;
  - Accessible artist residency studios and living spaces, to include dining facilities and restrooms;
  - Wheelchair-accessible restrooms and water fountains; and
  - Directional signage for accessible entrances, restrooms, and other facilities; and
  - Accessible workspaces for employees.

## Research Awards: Grants in the Arts and Labs

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- The programmatic offering should be accessible either as part of the funded activity or upon request, where relevant. This can include, but is not limited to providing:
  - Designation of an accessibility coordinator and publicly-available contact information (on website and promotional materials) for requesting accommodations;
  - Accessible and screen reader-compatible electronic materials, documents, websites, virtual platforms, and inclusion of alternative text for images;
  - Accessible on-line application and grant systems (where relevant);
  - Print materials in alternative formats, such as large-print brochures/labels/programs, braille, and electronic/digital formats;
  - Accommodations for performances, tours, virtual streamed events, conferences, and lectures, such as sign language interpretation, real-time captioning, and audio description;
  - Tactile art, signage, sculpture, and representations of two-dimensional artwork;
  - Closed/open captioning and audio/visual description for video, film, television broadcasts;
  - Transcripts of radio programs and podcasts;
  - Auxiliary aids and devices such as assistive listening devices;
  - Sensory-friendly programming, spaces, and approaches for people with sensory-processing issues and other neurological conditions;
  - Accommodations for live and archived virtual events, including captioning, sign language interpreting, and audio/visual description; and
  - Accommodations to integrate students with disabilities in arts learning programs.

See the Nondiscrimination Statutes in our "Assurance of Compliance" for additional information.

For technical assistance on how to make your project accessible, contact the Accessibility Office at [accessibility@arts.gov](mailto:accessibility@arts.gov), 202-682-5532 Voice; or the Civil Rights Office at [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov), 202-682-5454 Voice; or see our online [Accessibility Resources](#).

### Accessibility Requirements for Research Award Products

Ensure that your products are developed in a format that is readable by screen reading software using the built-in accessibility features of your software to create content in an accessible format. Provide a text equivalent for every non-text element, such as tables, charts, and photos by tagging them with alternate text descriptions (alt text) and captions. Do not use color-coding as the only method of conveying information. More resources regarding Accessibility are located at <https://www.arts.gov/impact/accessibility/publications-checklists-and-resources>.

### Civil Rights

Projects may focus on reaching a particular group or demographic (such as race, color or national origin, including limited English proficiency); however, they may not be exclusionary

under [Federal civil rights laws and policies](#) prohibiting discrimination. This extends to hiring practices, artist selection processes, and audience engagement. For additional information, refer to this archived webinar: [Things to Know Before You Apply: Federal Civil Rights and Your Grants Application](#).

The Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov) investigates complaints about compliance with accessibility standards as well as other federal civil rights statutes. For inquiries about limited English proficiency, go to <http://www.lep.gov>, the [FOIA Reading Room](#), or contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov).

### Project Reporting and Evaluation

We ask all applicants to define what they would like to achieve, how they will evaluate the degree to which it is achieved, and, upon completion of the project, what they have learned from their experiences. Such feedback need not entail large-scale or expensive evaluation efforts. You should do what is feasible and appropriate for your organization and project. When an award is completed, you must submit a final report and answer questions on your accomplishments, who benefited, and the resulting impact as well as list the involvement of key partners, funders, and artists. We recognize that some projects involve risk, and we want to hear about both your successes and failures. Failures can provide valuable learning experiences, and reporting them will have no effect on your ability to receive NEA funds in the future.

Through Research awards, we intend to achieve the following objective: *Produce research, statistics, and general information about the arts for the benefit of the arts sector and beyond*. If an award is received, the awardee also will be asked to provide evidence of those results. Before applying, [review the reporting requirements](#).

NEA Research Labs grantees will also be required to submit to the NEA quarterly progress reports throughout the life of the award.

### Product Requirement for Research Grants in the Arts and NEA Research Labs:

At the end of the grant period, both Research Grants in the Arts and NEA Research Labs awardees will be required to submit, at minimum, a 20-50-page research paper of that, at a minimum, includes two separate components: an abstract/executive summary and a full research paper for each award:

- The *abstract/executive summary* of the project should consist of a 1-5-page summary of the study's research goals, methods, findings, conclusions, and implications for research and policy and/or practice.

**Abstracts/executive summaries must be targeted toward both technical and non-technical audiences.**



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In addition, *full research papers* (excluding the abstract and executive summary) typically are comprehensive accounts of the project. The exact format and organization of the full research papers may vary depending on the project scope and distribution plans; see [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page for examples of previous grantees' final research products. These include but are not limited to academic research articles; white or grey papers; and books, handbooks, or book chapters.

Full research papers usually contain the following components:

- An explanation of why the research topic and related question(s) are important.
- A review of existing literature or previous work on the topic, if any, including a description of the theory being tested and hypotheses, if appropriate.
- A description of the methods, such as the descriptions of the research participants, sample characteristics and/or data source characteristics, procedures, measures and assessments, and the data analysis plan.
- A summary of the analysis conducted, and related findings.
- A conclusions section, including interpretations of the findings and discussion of whether the results supported or did not support any research hypotheses as appropriate; strengths and limitations of the research; future directions; and research and/or policy recommendations, based on the findings.
- A works cited or references list.
- Tables and figures, as appropriate (these can be included in the body of the paper if desired, rather than at the end).
- Any appendices or supplementary material.
- Contact information of the corresponding author (name and email at minimum) and websites for where the papers, products, and data of the project may be available beyond the NEA website, if applicable. This section should also include whether raw-data and/or meta-data will be accessible or shared, and procedures to obtain that information if it is, in the case that the NEA, other researchers, or non-researchers are interested in obtaining updated papers, data, or other resources (these details can be included in the title page of the paper).

For translational research projects, grantees are encouraged, but not required, to also submit a research product that can be used easily by practitioners or researchers who might be interested in developing a similar program, model, or tool.

The NEA Research Labs program requires additional products beyond the mandatory paper described above, and those expectations will be included in the terms and conditions of an NEA Research Lab award.

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It is our intention to publish grantees' research papers on our website. We also understand that some of our grantees may desire to publish their work in other venues, such as peer-review research journals, in books, or in other types of publications. With this possibility in mind, we intend to post final research papers as "working papers;" if the papers are copyrighted or become copyrighted, then we will replace any working papers with the copyrighted versions. However, you may request a one-year embargo (a restriction) on electronic access to your final research papers through the [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page or through the [NEA Research Labs](#) page. Should we agree to restrict access to your final paper, then your name, the title of your work, a description of your research, and the abstract will be available via our website, but the full text version will not be available for viewing or download until the embargo period has passed.

Please make sure to contact the NEA if you are contacted by the press or if you proactively engage the press about your award through such outlets as commercial newspapers (and their websites), radio, and TV; public broadcasting stations; community and alternative newspapers and newsletters; college and high school papers and stations; noncommercial and community access stations; listservs; news websites; membership websites (if relevant); and blogs. You may notify us of your media engagement and publications by emailing [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov).

### Administrative Requirements

Any project that extends beyond one year is required to submit an annual progress report.

### Crediting Requirement

Grantees must clearly acknowledge support from the NEA in their programs and related promotional material including publications and websites. Additional acknowledgment requirements, including template language, are provided under the [Manage Your Award](#) page, and may be provided later.

In *publications* of the data and the findings, acknowledgment of the NEA must be prominently displayed, including the Research Grants in the Arts or NEA Research Labs award number. In all other places (including but not limited to presentations concerning the project and material created for social media), the awardee must clearly acknowledge support from the NEA, regardless of the medium of the material, except as noted in the section titled "Responsible Conduct of Research." Include appropriate disclaimers, depending on the nature of the product. The NEA Research Labs program has an additional requirement: to the extent possible, include the NEA Research Labs visual identifier in all materials.

### Ownership and Use of Materials

Any materials resulting from a Research Grant in the Arts or NEA Research Lab award, including but not limited to products, training materials, research, and data, whether tangible or intangible (the "Work Product"), are deemed to be owned by the awardee. The awardee agrees to only make use of the Work Product in a manner consistent with the award terms and

conditions (including but not limited to crediting requirements) in perpetuity, and agrees that such restrictions shall inure to any of the awardee's successors in interest, including any such successors not yet known to the awardee. The NEA reserves a perpetual, royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish or otherwise use the products submitted by the awardee under the terms of any resulting award for federal purposes and to authorize others to do so (2 CFR 200.315).

Consultants or vendors engaged by the NEA Research Lab as part of the NEA-funded project will be required to agree that any information gathered will be used only for the purposes described in the award.

### Implementation of Title 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

This guidance from the federal government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes clarity and consistency of the pre- and post-award requirements applicable to federal grantees. Under the authority listed above, the NEA adopts the OMB Guidance in [2 CFR part 200 under §3255.1 Adoption of 2 CFR Part 200](#). This part gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance and supplements the guidance as needed for the NEA.

### General Terms & Conditions

Federal and agency requirements that relate to grants awarded by the NEA are highlighted in our [General Terms & Conditions](#) (GTC). The GTC incorporates the adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 by reference. The document also explicitly identifies where the NEA has selected options offered in the regulation, such as budget waivers and requirements for use of program income. It also includes agency requirements for cost share/matching funds, reporting requirements, amendment processes, and termination actions. **Grantees must review, understand, and comply with these requirements.** Failure to do so may result in having a grant terminated and/or returning funds to the National Endowment for the Arts, among other things.

### Changes in Projects

Applicants must notify the NEA immediately of any significant changes in their project that occur after they have submitted their application. If the project or the organization's capacity changes significantly before an award is made, the NEA may revise or withdraw the funding recommendation.

Grantees are expected to carry out a project that is consistent with the proposal that was approved for funding by the NEA. If changes in the project are required, the grantee must submit a request with justification for the change(s) through a proper REACH account for the award for review by the Office of Grants Management. **Approval is not guaranteed.** Detailed information is included the NEA's [General Terms & Conditions](#) for Grants to Organizations.

## Legal Requirements

**NOTE: This list highlights some of the significant legal requirements that may apply to an applicant or grantee, however, it is not exhaustive. More information regarding these and other legal requirements may be found at [Appendix A of our General Terms & Conditions](#) which sets forth the National Policy and Other Legal Requirements, Statutes, and Regulations that Govern Your Award. There may be other applicable legal requirements that are not listed here.**

1. By law, the National Endowment for the Arts may support only those organizations that:

- **Are tax-exempt.** Organizations qualifying for this status must meet the following criteria:
  1. No part of net earnings may benefit a private stockholder or individual.
  2. Donations to the organization must be allowable as a charitable contribution under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

For further information, go to the [Internal Revenue Service's \(IRS\) website](#).

- Organizations who have had their IRS status revoked are not eligible for National Endowment for the Arts support. It is your responsibility to ensure that your status is current at the time of the application and throughout the life of your award.
- **Compensate all professional performers and related or supporting professional personnel on National Endowment for the Arts-supported projects at no less than the prevailing minimum compensation.** (This requirement is in accordance with regulations that have been issued by the Secretary of Labor in [29 CFR Part 505](#). This part does not provide information on specific compensation levels.)
- **Ensure that no part of any National Endowment for the Arts-supported project will be performed or engaged in under working conditions which are unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of the employees involved.**

2. Some legal requirements apply to every applicant, for example:

- **Compliance with the federal requirements** that are outlined in the Assurance of Compliance below.
- [Debarment and Suspension procedures](#). The applicant must comply with requirements set forth in Subpart C of 2 CFR 180, as adopted by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2 CFR Part 3254. Failure to comply may result in the debarment or suspension of the grantee and the National Endowment for the Arts suspending, terminating and/or recovering funds.
- **Federal Debt Status** ([OMB Circular A-129](#)). Processing of applications will be suspended when applicants are delinquent on federal tax or non-tax debts, including judgment liens against property for a debt to the federal government. An organization's debt

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status is displayed in the System for Award Management (SAM). New awards will not be made if an applicant is still in debt status as of September 1.

- **Labor Standards** ([29 CFR Part 505](#)). If a grant is awarded, the grantee must comply with the standards set out in Labor Standards on Projects or Productions Assisted by Grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.
- **The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988** (41 U.S.C. 8101 et seq. and 2 CFR Part 3256). The grantee is required to publish a statement regarding its drug-free workplace program as well as comply with other requirements.

### 3. Some legal requirements apply depending upon what the grant is funding, for example:

- If your project activities have the potential to impact any structure that is eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places, adjacent to a structure that is eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places, or located in an historic district, you will be asked to provide additional information about your project or take additional action so that the agency can review and comply with the [National Historic Preservation Act](#) (NHPA). NHPA also applies to any planning activities that may affect historic properties or districts. The additional agency review must be completed prior to any agency funds being released.
- If your project activities have the potential to impact the environment or environmentally sensitive resources, you will be required to provide information in accordance with the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA). The additional agency review must be completed prior to any agency funds being released.
- If your contract is over \$2,000 and involves the construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings or public works, it must contain a clause setting forth the minimum wages to be paid to laborers and mechanics employed under the contract in accordance with [The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts](#) (DBRA).

### 4. Some legal requirements apply depending upon who the Applicant is, for example:

- [The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990](#) (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) applies to any organization that controls or possesses Native American cultural items, such as human remains or associated funerary objects and receives Federal funding, even for a purpose unrelated to the Act (25 USC 3001 et seq.).

## Assurance of Compliance

**By signing and submitting its application form on Grants.gov, the Applicant certifies that it is in compliance with the statutes outlined below and all related National Endowment for the Arts regulations and will maintain records and submit the reports that are necessary to determine compliance.**

We may conduct a review of your organization to ensure that it is in compliance with these statutes. If the NEA determines that a grantee has failed to comply with these statutes, it may

## Research Awards: Grants in the Arts and Labs

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suspend or terminate the award, and/or recover funds. This assurance is subject to judicial enforcement.

The Applicant certifies that it does not discriminate:

- On the grounds of race, color, or national origin, in accordance with **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1110.
- Solely on the grounds of disability, in accordance with **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** (29 U.S.C. 794), implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1151, and the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** ("ADA"), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).
- On the basis of age, in accordance with the **Age Discrimination Act of 1975** (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1156.
- On the basis of sex, in any education program or activity, in accordance with **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

Applicant will inform the public that persons who believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, or age may file a complaint with the Director of Civil Rights at the National Endowment for the Arts.

Applicant will forward all complaints for investigation and any finding issued by a Federal or state court or by a Federal or state administrative agency to:

Director, Office of Civil Rights  
National Endowment for the Arts  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20506

Applicant shall maintain records of its compliance and submission for three (3) years. The Applicant will compile, maintain and permit access to records as required by applicable regulations, guidelines or other directives.

The Applicant must also certify that it will obtain assurances of compliance from all subrecipients and will require all subrecipients of National Endowment for the Arts funds to comply with these requirements.

The United States has the right to seek judicial or administrative enforcement of this assurance.

For further information and copies of the nondiscrimination regulations identified above, contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov). For inquiries about

limited English proficiency, go to <http://www.lep.gov>, the [FOIA Reading Room](#), or contact the Office of Civil Rights at [civilrights@arts.gov](mailto:civilrights@arts.gov) or 202-682-5454.

## Regulations Relating to Lobbying

For organizations applying for more than \$100,000 (31 U.S.C. 1352).

The Applicant certifies that:

- a) It has not and will not use federal appropriated funds to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of a National Endowment for the Arts advisory panel or the National Council on the Arts, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of or modification to any federal grant or contract.
- b) If it has used or will use any funds other than federal appropriated funds to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the individuals specified above, the Applicant:
- c) Is not required to disclose that activity if that person is regularly employed by the Applicant. (Regularly employed means working for at least 130 days within the year immediately preceding the submission of this application.)
- d) Will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," if that person is not regularly employed by the Applicant.
- e) It will require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards of more than \$100,000 and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

## Standards for Service

The National Endowment for the Arts has set the following standards for serving applicants. We pledge to:

- Treat you with courtesy and efficiency.
- Respond to inquiries and correspondence promptly.
- Provide clear and accurate information about our policies and procedures.
- Provide timely information about funding opportunities and make guidelines available promptly.
- Promptly acknowledge the receipt of your application.
- Ensure that all eligible applications are reviewed thoughtfully and fairly.

We welcome your comments on how we are meeting these standards. Email: [webmgr@arts.gov](mailto:webmgr@arts.gov), attention: Standards for Service.

For questions about these guidelines or your application, email [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov). In addition, applicants may receive an invitation to participate in a voluntary survey to provide

feedback on the grant application guidelines on our website and any experiences consulting with our staff.

### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 26 hours per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. We welcome any suggestions that you might have on improving the guidelines and making them as easy to use as possible. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: [webmgr@arts.gov](mailto:webmgr@arts.gov), attention: Reporting Burden. Note: Applicants are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.



## Applicant Resources

### Webinars

- FY 2024 Research Awards Guidelines Webinar  
[PLACEHOLDER FOR REGISTRATION INFO](#)
- Things to Know Before You Apply: Federal Civil Rights and Your Grants Application Webinar  
[Recording](#)

[Online Tutorial: Using the Grant Application Form \(GAF\)](#)

[Research Agenda: FY 2022-2026](#)

- [Infographic](#)

[Sample Application Narratives](#)

[Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#)

[Previous NEA Research Lab Awardees](#)

[Publicly Available Data Sources](#)

[National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture \(NADAC\)](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How can I find out when new guidelines are released?**

We plan to use these same guidelines for up to three years, to coincide with the NEA's FY 2022-2026 Research Agenda. As such, we expect these instructions to be used also for the FY 2025 and FY 2026 competitions, which will have Grants.gov deadlines in late March 2024 and late March 2025, respectively. Deadlines for FYs 2025 and 2026, respectively, will be posted in January 2024 and January 2025. Please monitor our website for updates. You may also email [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov) to sign up for our distribution list to receive updates. You can also sign up via Grants.gov.

### **What is the difference between the Research Grants in the Arts program and the NEA Research Labs program?**

Both programs invite applicants to engage with the [agency's five-year research agenda](#) with research projects:

Research Grants in the Arts funds discrete research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. See [examples of previous Research Grants in the Arts projects](#). (Prior to Fiscal Year 2020, this program was known as "Research: Art Works.")

NEA Research Labs funds transdisciplinary research teams, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to engage with the [NEA's five-year research agenda](#). NEA Research Labs yield empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike. The NEA Research Labs offers funding for longer-term research agendas, which may include multiple research studies and activities that build and inform the field throughout the life of an NEA Research Lab.

### **I am a state arts agency (SAA) or a regional arts organization (RAO), and I am interested in applying for a Research Grants in the Arts grant or an NEA Research Lab award. Can I apply?**

No. SAAs and RAOs cannot apply for either opportunity as the authorizing organization, but can apply to the NEA as the official applicant under the [Partnership Agreements](#) category.

### **I am a SAA or RAO, and I am interested in being a partner on an application for a Research Grants in the Arts grant or an NEA Research Lab award. Can I serve as a partner?**

Yes. SAAs or RAOs may participate as a partner for either opportunity; however, no federal or cost share/matching funds included in the [Partnership Agreement](#) can be given to or provided by the SAA or RAO.

### **Do I need to include citation references in my proposal and if so, where do I put them?**

Yes. References should be included in the Project Narrative section of the Grant Application Form. Do not include them as a special attachment, the files will be removed.

### **What method of citation is preferred?**

We do not currently have any requirements regarding the style of citation. Common citation formats include but are not limited to APA, AMA, Chicago, and MLA. Do not use footnoting in

the text fields of the Grant Application Form, though this is acceptable for any PDF attachments.

### **We missed the application deadline. Can I submit a late application?**

No. Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Exceptions to the deadline will be considered only for registration or renewal issues or technical malfunctions that are the result of failures on the part of SAM, Grants.gov, or NEA systems, as determined by the NEA. To be considered for this exception, you must provide documentation of a SAM, Grants.gov, or NEA systems failure that prevented your submission by the deadline.

### **Examples of Reasons Why Late Applications Will Not Be Accepted:**

- Heavy administrative responsibilities on the part of the applicant's staff, relocation of an office/other workspace, personal events, or a very busy schedule.
- Problems with computer systems or Internet access at the applicant organization, or failure to complete or renew required registrations in advance of the application due date.
- Failure to follow instructions in the guidelines or funding opportunity announcement.

We will not make exceptions for applications that are the result of user error, including failure to register in SAM.gov or to verify that your application was successfully submitted to the Grants.gov system. The NEA is under no obligation to accept applications that are late for these reasons.

### **Reminders:**

- The NEA expects that applications will be submitted on time.
- On time submission means an application is submitted error free no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the application due date.
- Permission for late application submission cannot be granted in advance.
- Applications submitted late or outside the Grants.gov system or NEA system (e.g., an emailed SF-424) will not be processed, reviewed, or considered for funding.

### **Will you contact me if my application is missing anything?**

No. Because of the volume of applications, we have a strict approach to incomplete applications. For your application to be considered complete, every item that is required **MUST** be included in your application package, which must be submitted no later than the application deadline date. Staff will not contact applicants to request missing material, and incomplete applications will be returned to you. Please don't let that happen. Use the "How to Prepare and Submit an Application" section for your category to make sure that you have included every item. Have the completeness and accuracy of your application package double-checked by a responsible staff member who understands the importance of this task. Allow at least six weeks to prepare your application and other supplementary information. And do not wait until the day of the deadline to submit!

**If my application is determined to be incomplete, may I add the missing item(s) and resubmit the application?**

No. The staff has to check hundreds of applications. By the time that an application is identified as incomplete, it will likely be several weeks after the application deadline. An organization cannot add missing items and resubmit the application after the application deadline. We encourage you to double-check your application package against the "How to Prepare and Submit an Application" section to make sure that nothing is missing. If new or updated information that significantly affects your application becomes available after the deadline, you may send it to the Research staff at [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov).

**One of the proposed research staff is unable to complete the ethics training on human subjects research protections and thus cannot supply the required certificate of completion of the training. Is there an alternative to the requirement for this person that would allow him/her to continue as a researcher on the project without the certificate?**

We require all researchers involved in human subjects research and data to demonstrate a plan for completion of a human subjects research protections ethics training course. If a particular researcher is unable to provide a plan for this training, then that person may not collect, process, or analyze data from human subjects as part of the project, but may serve in another research capacity.

**Can I get a sample application?**

Examples under the Research Grants in the Arts category (previously known as the Research: Art Works grant category) can be found in the [FOIA Reading Room, Frequently Requested Records](#) for information on what is available as sample application material. We do not have sample applications available for the NEA Research Labs program.

**How soon after the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project" for my deadline does my project have to begin?**

The project can start any time on or after that date.

**Can my project start before this date?**

No. Proposed project activities for which you're requesting support cannot take place before this date. Ask the NEA to fund only the portion of your project that will take place after the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project." If you include project costs that are incurred before the "Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project" in your Project Budget, they will be removed.

**How long can my project last? May I apply for another project during this period?**

Research Grants in the Arts generally allows a period of performance of up to three years. Within the limits of the guidelines, ask for the amount of time that you think is necessary.

NEA Research Lab awards generally allows a period of performance of up to two years, and may be renewed up to four times. The life of NEA funding of an NEA Research Lab could be up to ten years, including all renewal awards.

If you get close to the end of your award period and think you need more time, you may request an extension, but approval is not guaranteed.

As long as it meets all other eligibility requirements, an organization may apply for funding for another project (with totally different project costs) the following year even if a NEA-supported project is still underway. Note that if you do receive an extension on a previous year's project, it may affect your grant period for your new proposed project. Requests for extensions must be submitted through a proper REACH account for the award.

### **Can federally recognized tribes apply?**

Yes, but under the Research Grants in the Arts category only. In keeping with federal policies of [Tribal Self Governance](#) and [Self-Determination](#), we may provide support for a project with a primary audience restricted to enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. Applicants (federally recognized tribal governments, nonprofits situated on federally recognized tribal lands, or other nonprofits whose mission primarily serves federally recognized tribal enrollees) should consult with [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov) to verify their eligibility before preparing an application.

### **Can non-federally recognized tribes apply?**

Yes, but under the Research Grants in the Arts category only, and as long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization. Projects for non-federally recognized tribes and indigenous groups may be supported, but project participation can't be restricted to only tribal members.

### **Can Native Hawaiian groups apply?**

Yes, but under the Research Grants in the Arts category only, and as long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization. Projects for Native Hawaiians may be supported, but project participation can't be restricted to only Native Hawaiians.

### **My organization received an NEA Research Labs award last year or in prior years; are we eligible to apply under the NEA Research Labs program for a new award?**

As an official applicant, you are not eligible to apply for this round. However, you can serve as a partner on another application from an eligible applicant organization.

### **Can our organization use funds we received from the Small Business Administration (SBA) as cost share/match for an NEA grant?**

No. Federal funds are not allowed to be used as cost share/match for federal grants (2 CFR §200.306). In addition, the NEA's enabling legislation does not allow any federal funds to be used as cost share/match for its awards. This includes the Paycheck Protection Program from the SBA, as well as other federal funding, including funding from:

- AmeriCorps
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Institutes of Health
- National Park Service
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Education (e.g., grants from the Institute of Education Sciences)

## Research Awards: Grants in the Arts and Labs

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- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Or an entity that receives federal appropriations such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or Amtrak

Note that organizations are eligible to apply for NEA funding even if they have applied for and received funding from the SBA, provided the organization isn't double-claiming any individual's salary. Recipients will be required to keep documentation to show which employees are being paid from each funding source so that the government isn't paying more than 100 percent of a salary. Applicants with additional questions about SBA programs should contact the SBA directly as we are unable to provide guidance on programs other than our own.

### **My organization received American Rescue Plan (ARP) or CARES funding. Can we also apply to Research Awards?**

Yes. You can apply as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. However, you need to be sure that there are no overlapping costs during the same grant period.

### **Can my organization apply for the same types of costs that were available for funding in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) or CARES programs?**

Yes. You can apply for salaries, fees/stipends, facilities costs, and marketing expenses as long as they fit into the proposed project. There is a key difference between the ARP and CARES programs and Research Awards. Research Awards applications must be for projects only. A project may consist of one or more specific events or activities, and it may be a part of an applicant's regular season or activities. We do not fund seasonal or general operating support in Research Grants in the Arts nor NEA Research Labs.

### **How should my organization formulate its project if we're not sure when in-person research and associated activities will be possible? Will it be possible to make project changes if needed later in the process?**

You should do your best to complete information within the application to the best of your knowledge. If you are recommended for an award, you will have an opportunity to request changes (e.g., a time extension, a modification to project activities) at that stage of the process. If you receive an award, you will have the opportunity to request project changes later in the process, as outlined in the [How to Manage Your Award Handbook](#).

We will work with you to try to accommodate changes to your project, but approval is not guaranteed. If you need to request a change, please contact the NEA at [nearesearchgrants@arts.gov](mailto:nearesearchgrants@arts.gov) to discuss what is possible.

### **My organization usually applies for in-person research activities. Can we apply for virtual activities, or the costs associated with planning for virtual activities?**

Yes.

### **Our exhibition space and/or performance venue will need to make physical changes to meet social distancing requirements, such as the removal of seats or installation of plexiglass to protect staff. To what extent can these costs be included in the project budget?**

You can apply for costs related to physical changes as long as they fit into the proposed project.

However, we do not fund the costs of physical construction or renovation, or the purchase costs of facilities or land.

**Can project budgets include expenses related to increased sanitation measures, such as additional personnel, cleaning services, PPE, and other supplies?**

Yes. You can apply for costs related to increased sanitation as long as they fit into the proposed project.