

National Endowment for the Arts

Notice of Funding Opportunity: FY28 Research Grants in the Arts

Program Guidelines

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Access for individuals with disabilities:

Contact accessibility@arts.gov to request an accommodation or an alternate format of the guidelines at least 2 weeks prior to the application deadline.

Research Grants in the Arts

Basic Information

Table 1: Opportunity Information

Category	Information
Federal Agency Name	National Endowment for the Arts
Funding Opportunity Title	Research Grants in the Arts
Announcement Type	Modification of previous announcement
Funding Opportunity Number(s)	2027NEA01RESEARCHGRANTS
Assistance Listing Number(s)	No. 45.024
Agency Contact Information	NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov
Cost Share requirement	Minimum 1:1 cost share required.
Eligible applicants (Review Eligibility for more information.)	- Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; Units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes. - Must have completed a five-year history of operations prior to the application deadline.
Ineligible applicants (Review Eligibility for more information.)	Individuals, fiscally sponsored projects, commercial/for-profit enterprises, State Arts Agencies (SAA), or Regional Arts Organizations (RAO).
Period of Performance	Up to two years.

Table 2: Funding Details

Funding Details	Estimated Amount (Contingent upon availability of funds)
Total amount of funding expected to award	\$1,025,000
Anticipated number of applications	80
Anticipated number of awards	10-20 awards
Expected dollar value of awards (range)	\$20,000-\$100,000

Executive Summary

Research Grants in the Arts (RGA) support research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. Applicants are encouraged to focus their project on one of three priority areas: Arts and Health, Arts and the Economy, or Arts and Education.

Applications are evaluated based on the published [Review Criteria](#).

COMPONENTS OF THIS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO):

- **RESEARCH GRANTS IN THE ARTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES (*this document*)**: Information including a program description, eligibility, review criteria, award amount and cost sharing, and post-award requirements and administration, among others.
- **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**: Navigate to the “Application Instructions” section on the [Research Awards webpage](#) for complete information on application requirements and how to apply.

TIMELINE:

We estimate that after completing the [pre-application required registrations](#), which can take several weeks to finalize, the estimated time-burden to draft and submit an application is approximately 35 hours.

Table 3: Key Dates

STAGE	DATE
Part 1: Application Package Available on Grants.gov	February 2027
Part 1: Grants.gov Submission Deadline	March XX, 2027 11:59 pm Eastern Time
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal Opens to Applicants	March XX, 2027 9:00 am Eastern Time
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal Submission Deadline	April X, 2027 11:59 pm Eastern Time
Anticipated notification of recommended funding or rejection	November 2027
Earliest project start date	January 1, 2028

Research Grants in the Arts Program Description

The Research Grants in the Arts (RGA) program is a funding opportunity under the National Endowment for the Arts (“Arts Endowment” or “NEA”) Research Awards portfolio. The program supports research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. Funded projects should have national, regional, or field-wide significance.

We strongly encourage applications for projects that focus on one or more of the following research areas of priority to the agency, though consideration is not limited exclusively to these areas:

1. **Arts and Health.** Includes studies that will test or characterize the benefits of the arts or arts and health activities—including creative arts therapies, narrative medicine, or “arts-in-health” programs—for the health and well-being of people or communities. The Arts Endowment has a special interest in supporting such projects in the following contexts:
 - Military service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers
 - Care of patients with pediatric cancer and other chronic childhood diseases
 - Substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery (e.g., opioids)
 - Disaster relief and emergency response and preparedness
 - Care of older adults experiencing or at risk for cognitive or neurodegenerative declines such as dementia or Alzheimer’s disease
2. **Arts and the Economy.** Includes studies that will test or characterize the benefits of the arts or arts activities in terms of economic or workforce development. The Arts Endowment has a special interest in understanding the arts’ role in the following areas:
 - Preparing active and responsible participants in an AI-ready workforce in ways that are consistent with valuing human artistry
 - Promoting career development for people with disabilities
 - Fostering skilled trade jobs at the intersection of arts and non-arts sectors and industries
3. **Arts and Education.** Includes studies that will test or characterize the benefits of the arts or arts activities in terms of school readiness, school or community/civic engagement, or academic achievement among children, youth, and young adults.
 - The Arts Endowment has a special interest in supporting such projects for learners with autism spectrum disorder or intellectual disabilities.

Additionally, we encourage projects that originate from or are in collaboration with the following:

- [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)
- American Indian and Alaska Native tribes
- [Hispanic Serving Institutions](#), and
- Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to support economic development

Product Requirement

Research Grants in the Arts recipients will be required to submit a [15-30-page research product](#) consisting of an **abstract/summary** and a **full research paper** of publishable quality within 120 days of the award period. See [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page for sample research products.

Projects, Research Methods, Data Sources, and Analysis

We welcome applications from a wide range of research fields (e.g., economics; psychology; education; medicine, health, and therapy; business administration; urban and regional planning). We expect the funded projects will be varied in terms of geographical distribution, the artistic and research fields or disciplines involved, the study designs chosen, and the research topics proposed.

In recent years, the Arts Endowment has supported studies that hypothesize a cause-effect relationship between the arts and key outcomes of interest (e.g., in health, education, or the economy). For research studies or program evaluations seeking to explore causal claims about the arts, experimental studies (e.g., randomized controlled trials) are generally preferred. In many other cases, however, different study designs will be preferable. These designs may include, but are not limited to meta-analyses, quasi-experimental studies, complex surveys, case studies, replication studies, and studies using mixed methods. Where appropriate, community-based participatory research approaches are also welcome.

Eligible projects further may include 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. For such projects, we encourage research-practice partnerships.

In addition, researchers interested in pursuing research projects involving secondary data analysis may wish to [visit the Arts Endowment website](#) for a list of publicly available datasets with 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).

See [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) for requirements related to human subjects research, primary data collection, IRB review, and analysis of personally identifiable information.

Recommended Partnerships

Although not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to form interdisciplinary project teams that include experts from both arts practice *and* research/evaluation. If partners are included, an application must demonstrate the active collaboration of the applicant organization and the partner in proposed project activities.

Unallowable Activities/Costs

The activities and costs listed below are **not** allowable and must not be included as part of your project activities or budget. This includes activities/costs covered by cost share funds. Applicants should carefully review the [General Terms and Conditions](#) (GTC) for additional information about allowable and unallowable costs.

Unallowable Activities

- Projects that focus exclusively on data acquisition.
- Projects that do not include data analysis conducted during the period of performance.
- Projects that focus exclusively on conducting a literature review.
- Projects involving the study of arts programs, conditions, or characteristics outside the United States.
- Projects 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 that is temporarily or permanently installed in public spaces, such as outdoor furnishings (e.g., benches or market structures), or other artwork such as a sculpture or mural. These types of projects are funded through [Grants for Arts Projects](#).
- Seasonal or general operating support.
- Direct grants to individuals.
- Subgranting or regranting. Subgranting is defined as regranting funds to another organization for activities that are conducted independently of your organization and for the benefit of the subrecipients' own program objectives. A subrecipient is not directly affiliated with your organization.
- Costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities such as receptions, parties, galas, community dinners, picnics, and potlucks. Generally, this also includes activities at venues such as bars, wineries, and breweries where the consumption of alcohol/social activity is the primary purpose of the venue.
- Awards to individuals or organizations to honor or recognize achievement.
- Lobbying, including activities intended to influence the outcome of elections or influence government officials regarding pending legislation, either directly or through specific lobbying appeals to the public.
- Voter registration drives and related activities.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities or the purchase of land.

Certain Unallowable Costs

- Cash reserves and endowments.
- Costs for the creation of new organizations.

- Costs to bring a project into compliance with federal grant requirements. This restriction does not prohibit otherwise allowable IRB submission costs incurred during the approved period of performance
- Project costs supported by any other federal funding. This includes federal funding received either directly from a federal agency; or indirectly from a pass-through organization such as a state arts agency, regional arts organization, or a grant made to another entity.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchase and/or use of gift cards, gift certificates, or other cash equivalents to support project costs.
- Gifts and prizes, including cash prizes as well as other items (e.g., electronic devices, gift certificates) with monetary value.
- Stipends/fees to individuals who are incarcerated.
- Contributions and donations to other entities, including donation drives.
- General miscellaneous or contingency costs.
- Fines and penalties, bad debt costs, deficit reduction.
- Marketing and fundraising expenses not directly related to the project.
- Audit costs not directly related to a Federal Single Audit.
- Rental costs for home office workspace owned by individuals or entities affiliated with the applicant organization.
- The purchase of vehicles.
- Visa costs paid to the U.S. government.
- Expenditures related to compensation to foreign nationals and/or travel to or from foreign countries when those expenditures are not in compliance with regulations issued by the [U.S. Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control](#). For further information, contact our [Office of Grants Management](#).
- Pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. § 1611 et seq. (PRWORA), individuals other than United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, or “qualified aliens”, as defined in 8 U.S.C § 1641(b), are ineligible award recipients, subrecipients, and subcontractors of NEA grant funding.
 - *Allowable costs* include fees paid to international artists and staff who are engaged to work on the proposed project.
- Costs incurred outside of the approved period of performance.

Period of Performance

Arts Endowment support of a project may start on or after January 1, 2028. Awards generally may have a period of performance of up to two years. Projects that extend beyond one year will be required to submit an annual progress report and updates on responsible conduct of research requirements, as necessary.

A recipient may not receive more than one Arts Endowment award for the same activities or costs during the same period of performance.

Authorizing Statute

The Arts Endowment offers this funding opportunity under the authority of 20 U.S.C. § 954.

Eligibility

One organization that meets the eligibility requirements below must act as the lead applicant, submit the application, and assume full responsibility for understanding and complying with all the legal, financial, and administrative requirements of the award. Partnering organizations are not required to meet the eligibility requirements below. **We will not transfer the award to another organization.**

NOT ELIGIBLE

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

- Individuals.
- Commercial and for-profit enterprises.
- Fiscal sponsors/agents, or other organizations acting on behalf of ineligible entities. The applicant organization must be the primary organization responsible for executing the project.
- An organization whose primary purpose is to channel resources (financial, human, or other) to an affiliated organization may not apply 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 Museum" may not apply if the ABC Museum applies.
- 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. Arts Endowment
- Applications that do not demonstrate the minimum required cost share.

ELIGIBLE

The lead applicant organization must be a:

- Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization;
- Unit of state or local government; or
- Federally recognized tribal community or tribe

Colleges and universities that fall under one of the above may serve as the lead applicant organization.

To be eligible as the lead applicant, the organization **must**:

- Meet the NEA's [Legal Requirements](#), including nonprofit, tax-exempt status at the time of application.
- Have completed a five-year history of operations prior to the application deadline.
- Have an active registration with the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM), and have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), at the time of application. Applicants must maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete and throughout the life of an award.

Additional Eligibility Information

The Arts Endowment may contact applicants for additional information, documentation, or clarification about your organization's eligibility.

Additional eligibility considerations may be relevant depending on the applicant organization type or project activities. Details can be found below.

Tribes and Tribal Communities

Federally recognized tribes and tribal communities may apply. 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.

Native Hawaiian and non-federally recognized tribes may apply if the applicant is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organization. Projects for Native Hawaiians and non-federally recognized tribes and indigenous groups may be supported, but project participation cannot be restricted to only Native Hawaiians and/or tribal members.

Fiscal Sponsorship & Organizations Acting on Behalf of Ineligible Entities

The applicant organization must be the primary organization responsible for executing the project. Fiscally sponsored organizations and projects are not eligible for Arts Endowment funding. An organization or individual **may not** use a fiscal sponsor/agent for the purpose of submitting an application. Unincorporated or for-profit entities or individuals may not use eligible organizations to apply for grants on their behalf.

If your organization does not have its own non-profit status, you may participate in a project submitted by another eligible organization.

Application Limits

Organizations can submit more than one application to the FY28 Research Grants in the Arts funding opportunity. In each case, the request must be for a **distinctly different project**.

- Applicants to the FY28 Research Grants in the Arts funding opportunity may apply to other FY28 Arts Endowment funding opportunities (applications submitted in CY2027), including Research Labs. Each application must be for a **distinctly different project**.
- An organization may receive only one FY28 award in either the Research Grants in the Arts program or the Research Labs program.

Applications will not be transferred between different Arts Endowment funding opportunities. Applications to Research Grants in the Arts will not be transferred to Research Labs or another Arts Endowment funding opportunity, or vice versa.

Award Amounts & Cost Sharing

All applications submitted and awards made in response to these guidelines are subject to the NEA's [General Terms & Conditions](#).

Award Amounts

We anticipate issuing between 10 to 20 awards, based on the availability of funding.

Awards will range from \$20,000 to \$100,000. We will award very few awards at or above the \$50,000 level. Such projects should be capable of commensurately larger scale and impact than projects funded at lower amounts. Priority will be given to applications that present theory-driven research questions and methodologies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. In addition, priority will be given to projects that align with the agency's research priorities, as stated earlier in this document.

We reserve the right to limit our support of a project to a particular phase(s) or cost(s).

Cost Share Funds

Awards cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. All awards require a nonfederal cost share of at least 1 to 1. These cost share funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, and can include federally-negotiated indirect costs. Cost share funds do not need to be committed at the time of application.

Federal funds may not be used as cost share. "Federal funds" includes funds awarded by the Arts Endowment or another federal agency, or funds that remain subject to federal statutory or award restrictions after being passed through another entity. Additionally, cost share funds cannot include subgranted federal funds through Regional Arts Organizations (RAO), State Arts Agencies (SAA), or Local Arts Agencies (LAA). Applicants may use funds from RAOs, SAAs, or LAAs *only if those funds did not originate at the federal level*. Applicants may contact their RAO, SAA, or LAA to ascertain the source of funding.

Government entities located in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands covered by the Economic Development of the Territories Act, may be eligible for a waiver to the cost share requirement for the first \$200,000 of Arts Endowment funds (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), as amended).

Applicants whose projects are recommended for less than the requested funding amount will have the opportunity to revise the project based on the recommended funding amount.

All costs included in your Project Budget must be incurred during your period of performance. **Costs incurred before the earliest project start date of January 1, 2028, cannot be included in your budget or cost share.**

Application Contents & Format

Application Instructions & Process

A detailed instructions document outlining how to complete and submit the application, including all application questions, can be found on the [Research Awards](#) page, under the *Application Instructions and Questions* section.

REGISTRATION: Before applying, applicants must finalize [required registrations](#).

Application Part 1, Grants.gov

All applicants must submit the *Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form* through Grants.gov. This form collects basic information about your organization and project. You must successfully submit Part 1 to move on to Part 2.

Application Part 2, NEA Applicant Portal

Part 2 of the application is submitted via the NEA's [Applicant Portal](#) a separate website from Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the *Grant Application Form (GAF)*, which collects information about your organization's history and budget, project details including a project description, timeline, and budget information, and special attachments.

Application Updates After Submission

Send new information that significantly affects your application (such as changes in key project personnel or IRB status) as soon as possible to Arts Endowment Research Awards staff. You must include your organization's name and Arts Endowment application number with any updates.

If you have questions about your application, contact the Arts Endowment Research Awards staff at NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Applications Recommended for Funding

If an application is recommended for funding, the applicant will receive a tentative funding recommendation notice, also known as a tentative funding offer, which is not the official award notice. To accept the offer, the applicant must submit additional information for Arts Endowment review and approval, including:

- A revised [project budget](#) form
- A project activity update, including:
 - If relevant, a list of participating artists and works of art, and/or other additional information requested by Arts Endowment staff. You may be required to provide bios and/or work samples for updated participants.
 - Updates on human ethics training certificates and Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews.

- An [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Questionnaire](#). See [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) for more information about ADA and Section 504 Compliance.

Arts Endowment staff will review the submitted updates and forms, and if approved, issue an official award [Notice of Action](#). Please note, any changes to artists, works of art, or activities from the original application must be approved by the NEA. If substitutions do not align with the original proposal, we reserve the right to withdraw the funding offer. Depending on the proposed changes, awards may be delayed or the offer withdrawn.

For more information about responding to a funding offer, see the [Manage Your Award](#) page on our website.

Submission Requirements & Deadlines

Pre-Application Required Registrations

Before applying, all applicants must register with Login.gov, the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov, and Grants.gov. All three required registrations must be active to submit Part 1 of the application through Grants.gov. Returning applicants must renew or verify that their registrations are up to date prior to the application deadline. Applicants must provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in their application; and continue to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal agency.

A **Registration Guidance document** is available on the [Research Awards](#) page, which provides detailed information about the registration process, including links to each registration site and support resources. **Registering and maintaining accounts with Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov is FREE.**

Submission Methods

Application materials must be submitted electronically; refer to the Application Instructions found on the [Research Awards](#) page.

Contact Information

See [Contacts](#) for Arts Endowment staff, Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov contact information.

Application Submission Dates and Times

We suggest setting an internal application deadline for your organization that is at minimum 24-48 hours before the actual application deadline. Do not wait until the day of the deadline to submit. **Late, ineligible, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

STAGE	DATE
Part 1: Application Package Available on Grants.gov	February 2027
Part 1: Grants.gov Submission Deadline	March XX, 2027 11:59 pm Eastern Time
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal Opens to Applicants	March XX, 2027 9:00 am Eastern Time
Part 2: NEA Applicant Portal Submission Deadline	April X, 2027 11:59 pm Eastern Time
Notification of recommended funding* or rejection	November 2027
Earliest project start date	January 1, 2028

*If your project is recommended for funding, you must submit [additional information](#) to the Arts Endowment for approval before an award can be finalized. Specific due dates will be included in the tentative funding recommendation notice.

Extensions to the Submission Deadlines

Extensions to the submission deadlines will be considered **only** for registration or renewal issues, or technical malfunctions resulting from a government technological systems failure (Login.gov, SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or Arts Endowment systems), as determined by the NEA. To be considered for an extension, you must provide documentation of a government technological systems failure that prevented your submission by the deadline.

In the event of a major emergency (e.g., a hurricane or government technological systems failure), the Arts Endowment Chairman may adjust application deadlines for affected applicants. If the deadline is extended, an announcement will be posted on our website.

Extensions to the deadlines **will not** be considered for reasons such as:

- User error, including but not limited to, failing to register or apply on time, or failure to verify that your application was successfully submitted to Grants.gov and/or the Applicant Portal.
- Problems with the applicant's computer systems or Internet access.

Please note:

- Permission for a late Part 1 application submission cannot be granted in advance. If you feel you have a case for an extension, contact staff within one week **after** the Part 1 submission deadline with documentation of the issues you encountered.
 - Some examples of documentation include: email communication from Grants.gov, SAM, or Login.gov help desks, and time/date-stamped screenshots of error messages.
- Applications submitted late or outside the Grants.gov system (e.g., an emailed SF-424) will not be processed, reviewed, or considered for funding.

Incomplete Applications

Arts Endowment staff will not contact applicants to request missing material. For your application to be considered complete, every required item **MUST** be included in your application and submitted on time. An organization cannot add missing items and resubmit the application after the application deadline.

Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs Executive Order 12372.

Application Review

Priority will be given to applications that present theory-driven research questions and methodologies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. In addition, priority will be given to projects that align with the agency's research priorities, as stated earlier in this document.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on the criteria below, with equal weight assigned to artistic excellence and artistic merit.

Artistic Excellence

- **Is the research plan clear and effective?** This includes the research questions, conceptual framework, research design, description of the arts program or intervention being studied, sampling techniques and/or data sources, and the proposed analytical methods. This also includes the appropriateness of the project to this funding opportunity.
- **Is there a sufficient evidence base for the research plan?** This includes evidence that the project is informed by a literature review and citations of previous work or research that support the conceptual framework and research plan.
- **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, this includes planned or completed ethics training on human subjects research protections for relevant personnel. This also includes the appropriateness of the artistic and/or research disciplines represented on the project team, and whether the team members and partners are likely to collaborate effectively.
- **Does the project include effective strategies to document progress and success of the project?** This includes any milestones that the organization plans to achieve both during the project and beyond the period of performance. This also includes quality control measures as well as routine monitoring and oversight of project activities.
- **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

- **Does the project have high potential to benefit the public in one or more of the following ways?**
 - Likely to yield results that are generalizable, even for discrete populations or practitioner groups.
 - Likely to yield clear and transparent methodologies and/or results that can be reproduced by other researchers.

- 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 extend access to the arts and their benefits to a larger proportion of the U.S. population, including to those for whom there are limited opportunities.
- **Does the project include effective strategies to disseminate the research results, products, and data?** This includes proposed strategies to make the research findings, products, and data accessible to the public and to other researchers and practitioners, beyond the materials that will be posted to the NEA’s website. This also includes plans for publishing or releasing materials through platforms such as open-access journals and public data repositories, as appropriate.

Review & Selection Process

Applications are checked for completeness and eligibility by Arts Endowment staff. Eligible applications are reviewed, according to the review criteria above, in closed session by research and evaluation advisory panelists. Each advisory panel includes at least one knowledgeable layperson. Panels are convened remotely, and membership changes regularly. The panel recommends the projects to be supported, and NEA staff reconciles panel recommendations with the funds that are available. These recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts, where they are voted on in an open public session. The National Council on the Arts makes recommendations to the Arts Endowment Chairman. The Arts Endowment Chairman reviews the recommendations for grants in all funding categories and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

Application Status Updates

Applicants will receive a tentative funding recommendation notice (also known as a tentative funding offer) or a notice of rejection via email. Refer to the [Application Calendar](#) for expected notification dates. Do not request the status of your application before the listed notification date. Applicants tentatively recommended for funding will receive a preliminary congratulatory message, with a request for required [project and budget updates](#).

Other Requirements

Responsible Conduct of Research

The Arts Endowment requires applicants under this program to comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the conduct of research in the United States. We require award recipients 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/vulnerable populations) for conducting the proposed project. 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 recipient or at the recipient's direction. Any researchers collecting data for a project supported with Arts Endowment funds—or by the cost share funds for the project—**may not represent to those subjects that such data are being collected on the NEA's behalf.** Recipients may, however, use the Arts Endowment logo to aid in data collection if data collection is included in the project budget. In such cases, use of the logo must include the award number, and the recipient should not state or imply that such data are being collected at the direction of or on behalf of the NEA.

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/vulnerable populations, as well as the role of IRBs. Evidence of such plans and/or status can take the form of an active, unexpired certificate of completion of a training module. The Arts Endowment does not specify or endorse any specific educational programs. Certificates of completion of the training are not required at the time of application. If you are recommended for an award, you will be expected to submit active, unexpired certificates of completion of a training module for each key personnel involved with primary data collection or analysis of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from human subjects. **The Arts Endowment will not reimburse costs for ethics training under this program.** Award recipients are required to submit updated ethics training documentation as relevant.

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 each of those organizations as well. Recipients are required to submit IRB approval documentation to the Arts Endowment prior to engaging in any activity determined to require IRB approval, as well as submit updated IRB documentation as relevant.

IMPORTANT: For this program, the Arts Endowment may withhold award funds until IRB approval and ethics training certificates are submitted to the NEA.

Costs of submitting research proposals to IRBs are allowable only 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](#), and a [database of registered IRBs](#) that applicants could consult with; the [National Science Foundation](#) also has resources related to IRB and human subjects research protections.

Data Management and Sharing

We intend for the Research Grants in the Arts program to generate new findings that will inform the public—including researchers and/or practitioners—about the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. For more detail on what is required, see the Data Access and Management Plan section of the Application Instructions.

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

Award Notices

The official award notification (i.e., a notice of action authorized by the Arts Endowment 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 factors such as changes to the project budget, the number of awards to be processed, Arts Endowment Congressional appropriations level, etc.

The award notice includes specific reporting requirements, terms, and conditions related to your award.

All Arts Endowment awards are contingent on active SAM registration and compliance with 2 CFR 200, NEA's legislation 20 U.S.C. § 954 and 955, along with other federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders that apply to federal financial assistance awards and established Arts Endowment policies. The Arts Endowment will not be able to issue an award if you have an expired SAM.gov registration on September 1 of the fiscal year listed on this funding opportunity or if the project is not compliant with applicable statutes and regulations.

Risk Review

All recommended applications undergo a review to evaluate risk posed by the applicant organization prior to making a federal award. The review may include past performance on federal awards, meeting reporting deadlines, compliance with terms and conditions, audit findings, etc.

Final Reporting on Previous Awards

Before the Arts Endowment issues any award, organizations must have submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all previous Arts Endowment award(s).

Post-Award Requirements & Administration

General Terms & Conditions

Federal government-wide and agency-specific requirements that relate to Arts Endowment awards are highlighted in our [General Terms & Conditions](#) (GTCs). The GTCs incorporate the adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 by reference. It also includes requirements for cost share funds, reporting requirements, amendment processes, and termination actions. **Recipients must review, understand, and comply with these requirements.** Failure to comply with an award's GTCs may result in termination of the award, and/or having to return funds to the NEA, or other consequences.

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

The guidance under 2 CFR Part 200 from the federal government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes clarity and consistency for pre- and post-award requirements applicable to federal award recipients. The Arts Endowment has adopted the OMB Guidance in [2 CFR part 200 under §3255.1 Adoption of 2 CFR Part 200](#). The NEA's adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance, including any updates to it.

Crediting Requirement

Award recipients must clearly acknowledge Arts Endowment support of the awarded project in their programs and related promotional material, including publications and websites. The Arts Endowment may provide additional acknowledgment requirements later. The Arts Endowment does not fund general operating support, so you must only credit the Arts Endowment for the specific project it funds and not your entire organization or its operation as a whole.

In *publications and presentations* of the data and the findings, acknowledgment of the Arts Endowment must be prominently displayed, including the Arts Endowment award number; appropriate disclaimers are also required, depending on the nature of the product.

- *Sample crediting language:* This project was supported in part or in whole by an award from the Research Grants in the Arts program at the National Endowment for the Arts: Grant# xxxxxxx-38-xx.
- *Sample disclaimer language:* The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author(s) and do not represent the views of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Arts Endowment does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information included in this paper and is not responsible for any consequence of its use.

In all other places (including but not limited to presentations concerning the project and material created for social media), the recipient must clearly acknowledge support from the NEA, regardless of the medium of the material, except as noted in [Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

Changes in Projects

Pre-Award: Applicants must notify the Arts Endowment of any significant changes in their project that occur after submitting an application. If the project, the applicant's eligibility, or the organization's capacity to carry out the project changes significantly before an award is made, the Arts Endowment may revise or withdraw the funding recommendation.

Post-Award: Recipients are expected to carry out a project consistent with the proposal that was approved for funding by the NEA. If changes to the project are required, the recipient must request approval from the Office of Grants Management, which is **the only office authorized to amend or change an Arts Endowment award. Written and/or verbal approval of proposed project changes from any other Arts Endowment office does not constitute an approved change to an award.** Detailed information is included in the [General Terms & Conditions](#).

Project Reporting and Evaluation

Before applying, review the reporting requirements for the NEA's [Final Reports](#). If you have any questions about the agency's objectives or the required final reports, contact Arts Endowment staff.

All recipients are required at a minimum to submit a Final Descriptive Report (FDR), a Federal Financial Report (FFR), a Geographic Location of Project Activity Report (GEO), and a Research Product within 120 days of the end of their period of performance. Any project that extends beyond one year will be required to submit an annual progress report. Further information on the Research Product is included below.

You are required to maintain project documentation, including financial records, for three (3) years following submission of your final reports.

Product Requirement for Research Grants in the Arts

Products are due within 120 days of the end of the period of performance.

1. **All recipients** are required to submit a **final 15-30-page Research Product** consisting of an **abstract/summary** and a **full research paper**. The report must be of publishable quality and document the methods and findings of the study or studies.
 - **Abstract/Summary:** an abstract/summary of no more than one page in length describing the study's research goals, methods, findings, conclusions, and implications for research, policy, and/or practice. This should be written for **both non-technical and technical audiences**.
 - **Full Research Paper:** typically a comprehensive account of the project. These include, but are not limited to, academic research articles; white/grey papers; and books or book chapters. See the [Research Grants in the Arts Study Findings](#) page for examples of previous recipients' research papers. Full research papers may vary in format and organization, and typically contain some or all the following components:

- An explanation of research question(s) and why they are important.
 - A literature review of previous work on the topic, and conceptual frameworks or theories guiding the research, as appropriate.
 - A description of the research methods (e.g., sample characteristics and/or data source characteristics, procedures, measures and assessments, and the data analysis plan).
 - A summary of the results/findings of the analysis, including positive, negative, and null findings, as relevant. This should include quantitative measures of uncertainty (e.g., confidence intervals, error margins, or sensitivity analyses) if those measures were used.
 - Interpretations of the results/findings; strengths and limitations of the research; future directions; and research and/or policy recommendations based on the findings.
 - A list of works cited or references.
 - Tables and figures, as appropriate.
 - Any appendices or supplementary material.
 - Contact information of the corresponding author (name and email at a minimum), and websites that have more information about the project, such as additional papers, products, and data (including raw and/or meta-data).
2. **For translational research projects**, recipients 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.

Final research papers may be posted to the Arts Endowment website as “working papers” unless they already have been published in another outlet—in which case, they will be replaced with the published versions. However, grantees may request an embargo of up to one year from their period of performance end date, so that the papers are not posted to the Arts Endowment website within this period. Even if the Arts Endowment agrees to offer the grantee an embargo period for the full paper, the agency still may opt to put the grantee’s abstract/summary online. Following the end of the embargo period, the Arts Endowment may post the grantee’s final paper to the agency’s website, with any additional changes requested by the grantee.

Please contact the Arts Endowment if you are contacted by the press or if you proactively engage the press about your awarded research through outlets such as news media, radio, and TV; and more informal outlets such as newsletters, listservs, blogs, and social media. You may notify us of your media engagement and publications at NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov.

Ownership and Use of Materials

Any materials (the “Material”) produced under an Arts Endowment Research award, including but not limited to academic research articles, white/grey papers, books/ book chapters, training

materials, research, and data, are deemed to be owned by the recipient. The recipient must use the Material in a manner consistent with the award terms and conditions including, but not limited to, crediting requirements. The Arts Endowment reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the Material for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so (2 CFR 200.315).

Legal Requirements and Assurance of Compliance

The [Legal Requirements](#) section on our website provides information about key legal requirements that may apply to an applicant or award recipient. It is not an exhaustive list and more details can be found in Appendix A of the [General Terms & Conditions](#).

By signing and submitting the application form on Grants.gov, the applicant certifies that it is in compliance with the statutes outlined in the [Assurance of Compliance](#) and all related National Endowment for the Arts regulations as well as all applicable executive orders, and that it will maintain records and submit the reports that are necessary to determine its compliance.

It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are compliant with all legal, regulatory, and policy requirements applicable to your award.

For more information, review the [Assurance of Compliance FAQ](#).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act Section 504

As outlined in the [Assurance of Compliance](#), all Arts Endowment-funded projects must be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities may include artists, performers, audiences, visitors, teaching artists, students, staff, and volunteers, among others. Funded activities must be held in a physically-accessible venue. Program access and effective communication must also be provided for participants and audience members with disabilities.

The General Terms & Conditions require your organization to have a Section 504 self-evaluation on file and a designated 504/accessibility coordinator on staff.

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

- Buildings and facilities (including projects held in historic facilities) must be physically accessible. The following are some examples, though this is not an exhaustive list:
 - Ground-level/no-step entry, ramped access, and/or elevators to project facilities and outdoor spaces, including paths of travel;
 - Wheelchair-accessible box office, stage/backstage, restrooms, water fountains, meeting and dressing rooms;
 - Directional signage for accessible entrances, restrooms, and other facilities; and
 - Accessible workspaces for employees.

- Programmatic activities must be accessible either as part of the funded activity or upon request. The following are some examples, but your examples should be relevant to your proposed activities:
 - Accommodations for performances, tours, virtually streamed events, conferences, and lectures, such as sign language interpretation, real-time captioning, and audio description;
 - Print materials in alternative formats, such as large-print brochures/labels/programs, braille, and electronic/digital formats;
 - Accessible and screen reader-compatible electronic materials, documents, websites, and virtual platforms, and alternative text for images;
 - Closed/open captioning and audio/visual description for video, film, television broadcasts, and virtual events;
 - Auxiliary aids and devices, such as assistive listening devices.

Costs associated with project-related programmatic accommodations, such as those listed above, may be included in your Arts Endowment project budget. However, costs related to physical construction or renovation expenses are unallowable and may not be included in the project budget.

For technical assistance on how to make your project accessible, contact at accessibility@arts.gov, 202-682-5532 or see our online [Accessibility Resources](#).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH AWARD PRODUCTS

Ensure that your products are developed in a format readable by screen reading software. 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.

Civil Rights

Projects may reach or focus on a particular group or demographic (such as sex, disability, economic status, race, color or national origin); however, projects may not be exclusionary under Federal civil rights laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. This extends to hiring practices, artist selection processes, and audience engagement. Arts Endowment research projects focused on specific populations may use appropriately tailored selection criteria when supported by nondiscriminatory scientific or research-based justifications. Therefore, federal funding for research projects with a focus on a particular group or demographic may be permissible. Review the [Assurance of Compliance](#) which outlines relevant federal statutes, Arts Endowment regulations, and executive orders. For additional guidance regarding how this applies to the Arts Endowment Research Awards program, contact [Arts Endowment Staff](#).

The Office of Civil Rights investigates complaints about compliance with accessibility standards as well as other federal civil rights statutes. For further information and copies of the

nondiscrimination regulations, contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or civilrights@arts.gov.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Notice

Disclosure Notice: Where required or permitted by law, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) may share with the public or other third parties a copy of applicants' awarded applications and/or related materials submitted to the Arts Endowment.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 35 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, 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.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I find out when new guidelines are released?

Guidelines for Research Awards are often posted in January of each year, with an application deadline in late March. Please monitor our website for updates. You may also email NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov to sign up for our distribution list to receive updates.

What is the difference between the Research Grants in the Arts program and the Arts Endowment Research Labs program?

Research Grants in the Arts funds discrete research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life. See [examples of previous Research Grants in the Arts projects](#).

NEA Research Labs funds long-term research agendas that include multiple empirical studies and the dissemination of various products or services for promoting public knowledge about the arts and their contributions to American life. Each Lab must include an interdisciplinary team of researchers, a technical working group, and an arts partner. NEA Research Labs are eligible for up to one subsequent renewal award for a project consistent with the intent of the program.

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, although this is acceptable for any PDF attachments.

What is the Earliest and Latest Start Date for my deadline?

You may request a start date as early as January 1, 2028 and as late as December 1, 2028.

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 two years. An eligible organization may apply for funding for another project (with different project costs) in a subsequent year(s) in other Arts Endowment grant opportunities, even if a NEA-supported project is still underway. Note that if you do receive an extension on an existing award, it may affect your new proposed project. All requests for changes and extensions to awards must be submitted through a proper REACH account.

Will it be possible to make project changes if needed later in the process?

Please try 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) 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 Arts Endowment at both grants@arts.gov and NEAResearchGrants@arts.gov to discuss what is possible. Only the Arts Endowment Office of Grants Management is authorized to amend or change an Arts Endowment award. Written and/or verbal approval of proposed project changes from any other Arts Endowment office does not constitute an approved change to an award.