

July 1, 2004

Policy Brief.....National Endowment for the Arts

RSC Contact: Sheila Moloney, 202-226-9719; Lisa Bos, 202-226-1630

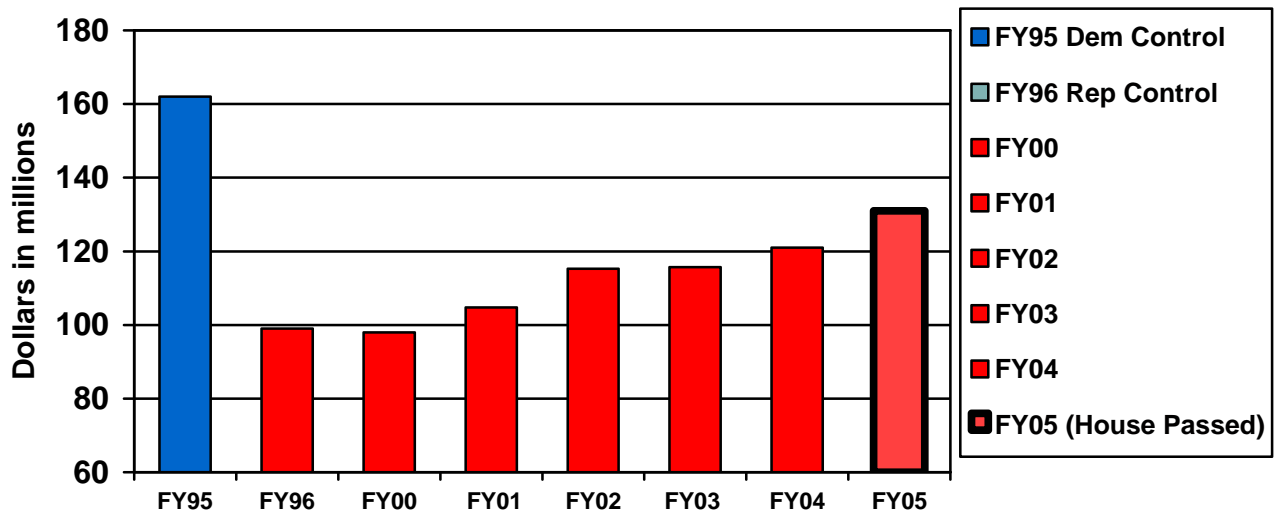
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HISTORY OF NEA FUNDING

FY95:	\$162 million	[Democrat Majority in Congress]
FY96:	\$99 million	[Republican Majority in Congress]
FY97:	\$99 million	
FY98:	\$98 million	
FY99:	\$98 million	
FY00:	\$98 million	
FY01:	\$104.770 million	[\$7 million increase]
FY02:	\$115.234 million ¹	[\$10.464 million increase]
FY03:	\$115.732 million ²	[\$500,000 increase]
FY04:	\$120.972 million ³	[\$ 5.2 million increase]

FY05 House Passed (after passing Slaughter \$10m increase) \$130.972 million

[FY05 Bush Request: \$139.4 million⁴]



¹ FY02: \$98.234 million General NEA Account+\$17 million NEA Challenge America Grants= \$115.234 million

² FY03: While the text of the Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.J.Res. 2), signed into law February 20, 2003, reads \$99.489 million General NEA Account+\$17 million NEA Challenge America grants= \$116.489 million. An across-the-board rescission contained in the bill, means that \$115.732 million was the final amount appropriated.

³ FY04: The Interior Appropriations Act (H.R. 2691), signed into law November 10, 2003, reads \$122.480 million (of which \$17 million is for NEA Challenge America grants). An across-the-board rescission contained in the omnibus means that \$120.972 million is the final amount appropriated.

⁴ January 29, 2004, AP story entitled, "Bush Seeks \$18M Budget Increase for Arts."

In the past, questions have been raised about the value and appropriateness of NEA-funded projects. While the NEA has increased its focus on traditional arts funding, such as Shakespeare, folk music, and opera, the NEA also continues to fund programs that some may believe are of questionable value and appropriateness. Below are some select grants from the NEA. (Source: www.nea.gov)

2004 Grants

Country Music Hall of Fame (Country Music Foundation, Inc.) \$214,000 Nashville, TN

To support the conservation and preservation of the Country Music Foundation's audio collection. The collection includes over 14,000 transcriptions from the 1930s to the 1960s.

Sundance Institute \$115,000 Salt Lake City, UT

To support the Feature Film Program. The program offers emerging screenwriters, directors, producers, and composers the opportunity, support, and resources needed to successfully develop new creative work.

(RSC Note: The Sundance Institute is associated with the Sundance Film Festival, which was founded by Robert Redford and attracts Hollywood elite who have extensive financial resources.)

2003 Grants

New York Foundation for the Arts, Inc. (on behalf of *Check Your Body at the Door*) \$25,000 NY, NY

To support a fine-cut edit of *Check Your Body at the Door*, a video documentary about popular, social, and club dances and dancers in New York City.

Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy \$20,000 Chicago, IL

To support the nomination of Frank Lloyd Wright structures to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. The nomination will focus on the comprehensive nature of Wright's contribution to modern architecture.

Orange Show Foundation \$10,000 Houston, TX

To support conservation and restoration of the Beer Can House, a work by self-taught artist John Milkovisch. The Houston landmark, consisting of a house and grounds decorated with methodically trimmed cans, will be used as an artist-in-residence project space.



Photo of NEA-supported "Beer Can House"

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/TXHOUbeer.html>

Lawyers for the Creative Arts \$10,000 Chicago, IL

To support the expansion of pro bono legal and arts mediation services. The project will provide artists and arts organizations in Northern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin with access to free legal expertise.

Center for the Study of Los Angeles \$50,000 Los Angeles, CA

To support the City Projects film series. The series will examine Los Angeles' reaction to the built environment.

America Spent \$27 billion on Non-Profit Arts Funding in 2001:

\$11.5 billion from the private sector

\$14 billion earned income (tickets sales, etc.)

\$1.3 billion combined federal, state, and local public support (of which \$105 million was from the NEA (0.39% of total non-profit arts funding))

Source: NEA legislative affairs in response to Congressional inquiry

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