

National Endowment for the Arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



2009: Year in Review

On August 7, 2009, Rocco Landesman, nominated by President Barack Obama as the tenth chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Landesman follows Dana Gioia, who left the chairmanship in January 2009. Patrice Walker Powell, the NEA's deputy chairman for state, regions, and local arts agencies, served as acting chairman in the interim.

In February 2009, the NEA participated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) enacted by the U.S. Congress. With a swift turnaround time of five months, the NEA distributed \$50 million from ARRA that preserved not-for-profit arts sector jobs lost or jeopardized during the economic downturn. Forty percent of the funding was given in one-time grants to the state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, and the other 60 percent went to competitively selected arts projects and activities.

Excluding ARRA, the NEA's fiscal year (FY) 2009 appropriation was \$155 million, which represented a \$10.3 million increase over the FY 2008 budget and resulted in more than \$128 million in grant awards. Arts Endowment awards generated more than \$600 million in matching support.

The NEA made approximately 2,400 awards to communities in all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions. Every Congressional district received at least one direct grant. The FY 2009 grants helped make possible nearly 40,000 concerts, readings, and performances; 5,000 exhibitions (including visual and media arts); and 8,000 artist residencies in schools and other locations. More than 100 million individuals benefited from agency programs, including 10 million children and youth (exclusive of television and radio broadcast audiences that reached millions more.)

Notable activities during FY 2009 included the NEA convening the National Summit on Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. This multi-agency summit gathered more than 100 experts to evaluate progress and develop new strategies to

advance educational and career opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities. It was the first such gathering since 1998.

The agency announced the first seven selections for the NEA New Play Development Program, a new initiative that provides national support for exceptional new plays and innovative models of development that lead them to production. The two NEA Outstanding New American Play selections—Rajiv Joseph's *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* and Tarell Alvin McCraney's trilogy *The Brother/Sister Plays*—both received national critical acclaim for the productions. Five other projects were selected for NEA Distinguished New Play Development Projects.

The NEA's International Literary Exchanges initiative, which promotes the exchange of great world literature across borders, expanded to include the People's Republic of China. Copper Canyon Press will publish an anthology of Chinese poetry, edited by award-winning poet Oingping Wang, in 2011, and the Chinese General Administration of Press and Publication will concurrently publish a bilingual anthology of contemporary U.S. poets edited by poet David Mason. Literary exchange projects have already taken place with Russia, Mexico, Pakistan, and Ireland under the initiative.

The Arts Endowment continued to provide pertinent reports on the arts by releasing *Artists in a Year of Recession: Impact on Jobs in 2008*, which detailed the economy's impact on the arts sector, and *Arts Participation 2008: Highlights from a National Survey*, which featured top findings from the 2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, the nation's largest and most representative periodic study of adult participation in arts events and activities, conducted by the NEA in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Through all programs and activities, the NEA continued its mission to make the arts and arts education accessible to all Americans and it has highlighted art as an essential component of healthy communities throughout the nation.



A full list of FY 2009 grants and panelists can be found on the NEA website at www.arts.gov.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

Since its establishment, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion in funding, including early support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition, the Sundance Film Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, PBS's *Great Performances* series, and the American Film Institute. For more than four decades, the Arts Endowment has encouraged creativity through support of performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other arts projects throughout the country.

The NEA awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations. In addition, it awards non-matching individual fellowships in literature and honorary fellowships in jazz, the folk and traditional arts, and opera. All applications to the Arts Endowment are reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit. Applications generally receive three levels of review. First, they are reviewed by independent, national panels of artists and other arts experts. Panels make recommendations that are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts.

The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's advisory body, comprises nationally and internationally renowned artists, distinguished scholars, and arts patrons appointed by the President, and members of Congress. The council reviews and makes recommendations on the applications. Those recommendations for funding are sent to the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The chairman reviews those applications and makes the final decision on all grant awards.



Brad Fleischer and Glenn Davis in the world premiere production of Rajiv Joseph's *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, selected as an NEA Outstanding New American Play as part of the NEA New Play Development Program. Photo by Craig Schwartz

Financial Summary

Summary of Funds Available

	FY 2009
Appropriated Program Funds	128,200,000
Appropriated Balance, Prior Year ¹	4,400,309
Nonfederal Gifts ¹	1,280,485
Interagency Transfers ^{1,2}	3,025,735
Total Program Funds Available	136,906,529
Total Program Support Funds Available ¹	2,529,813
Total Salary and Expense Funds Available ^{3,4}	27,575,904
Total Funds Available	167,012,246

One Time Funding Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

50,000,000

¹ Includes FY 2008 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2009, prior year deobligations carried forward into FY 2009, and funds newly available in FY 2009, as applicable.

² Includes interagency transfers held on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

³ Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers including FY 2008 unobligated funds brought forward into FY 2009, prior year deobligations brought forward into FY 2009, and funds newly available in FY 2009, as applicable.

⁴ Includes nonfederal gifts and interagency transfers held on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, as applicable.

Summary of Funds Obligated ¹

(\$ in thousands)

FY 2009

Access to Artistic Excellence

Direct Endowment Grants

Project Support ²	41,112
Challenge America: Reaching Every Community	9,895
American Masterpieces	11,046
Total Access to Artistic Excellence	62,053

Learning in the Arts

Direct Endowment Grants

Project Support	11,694
Partnerships for the Arts	1,700
Total Learning in the Arts	13,394

Partnerships for the Arts

State Partnerships

State & Regional	41,622
Underserved	8,894
Subtotal State Partnerships	50,516

Direct Endowment Grants

Total Partnerships for the Arts	593
Total Partnerships for the Arts	51,109

Total Program Funds Obligated

126,556

Total Program Support Funds Obligated

1,725

Total Salaries & Expenses Funds Obligated ³

26,697

Total Funds Obligated

154,978

One Time Funding Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

49,757

¹ Includes appropriated funds, nonfederal gifts, and interagency transfers.

² Include \$809K for Save America's Treasures.

³ Includes funds from nonfederal gifts obligated on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities of which \$200K was obligated in support of grants and cooperative agreements.

National Council on the Arts *(as of April 15, 2010)*

Rocco Landesman
Chairman

James Ballinger
Museum Director
Phoenix, AZ

Miguel Campaneria
Dance School Director
Hartford, CT

Ben Donenberg
Theater Producer/
Director/Arts Educator
Los Angeles, CA

JoAnn Falletta
Music Director
Buffalo, NY, & Norfolk, VA

Lee Greenwood
Country Music Singer/Songwriter
Nashville, TN

Joan Israelite
Retired Local Arts
Agency Executive
Kansas City, MO

Charlotte Kessler
Patron/Trustee
Columbus, OH

Bret Lott
Author/Editor
Charleston, SC

Irvin Mayfield
Jazz Musician/Composer
New Orleans, LA

Stephen Porter
Patron/Attorney
Washington, DC

Barbara Ernst Prey
Visual Artist
Oyster Bay, NY

Frank Price
Film Industry Executive
New York, NY

Terry Teachout
Critic/Author
New York, NY

Karen Wolff
Retired Music Educator
Ann Arbor, MI

**Ex-Officio Members,
United States Congress**

Senate

Robert Bennett (R-UT)

Claire McCaskill (D-MO)

Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

House

Patrick J. Tiberi (R-OH)

*Appointment by Majority and
Minority leadership of the
remaining Members of Congress
to the Council is pending.*



The 2009 Piccolo Spoleto Festival, supported by the NEA, opened with Sunset Serenade, a free outdoor pops concert by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra at the U.S. Custom House overlooking the harbor. Photo by Peter Finger



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

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Cover photos: An Asian youth group performing onstage at the Living Traditions Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah, produced by the Salt Lake City Arts Council with support from the NEA. Photo by Douglas Barnes Photography