NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

arts.gov

ALABAMA

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the independent federal agency that works to give people across America the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts. The NEA is the only funder, public or private, that provides access to the arts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

Nationwide, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the arts. Thanks to historic investments, the NEA is helping the arts and cultural sector to recover, rebuild, and reopen. In 2022:

- Arts and cultural production in Alabama added **2.3%** or **$6.4 billion** to the state's economy.
- Alabama's arts and cultural industries employed **49,359** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **$3.3 billion**.

GRANTS TO THE STATE

Over a five-year period (FY 2019-2023), the NEA distributed $13,475,781 in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.

The Arts Endowment awarded **105** direct grants throughout Alabama over the past 5 years, totaling **$9,019,381**. These direct grants included:

- Visual arts workshops for incarcerated men and women in multiple facilities around the state
- Classes for older adults featuring instruction in regional Appalachian music with a focus on dulcimer, choral singing, and ukulele
- Music performances and educational outreach activities at Bishop State Community College and Title 1 elementary schools

NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE STATE

In addition to offering direct grants, the NEA supports national initiatives benefiting people across the country. Over the past five years:

Blue Star Museums program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **48** participating museums in Alabama.

Poetry Out Loud program provided opportunities for an average of **2,837** students per year attending **72** unique high schools in Alabama to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation— great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **36** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **1,238** adults and students in Alabama.