

## National Endowment for the Arts—FY 2021 Support of Arts Research

The National Endowment for the Arts is the federal agency of record for arts-related research. The agency's [Office of Research & Analysis](#) (ORA) conducts and supports investigations into the value and impact of the arts in our lives. ORA supports research undertaken by other organizations through two funding programs, [Research Grants in the Arts](#) and [NEA Research Labs](#). [This grant announcement](#) includes new awards made through both of those programs.

### Research Grants in the Arts

This program supports research that investigates the impact of the arts as individual components of, or through interactions with, other domains of American life. In this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the program, the Arts Endowment will award **\$833,000 through 14 grants** [that you can read about here](#).

In this round, three focus areas emerged from the funded projects.

- **The arts' relationship to cognition and mental health, particularly in older adults**
  - Example: The Institute for Therapy through the Arts in Evanston, Illinois will conduct further program evaluation of Musical Bridges to Memory, a 12-week music program for adults with moderate-to-severe dementia who live in memory care facilities.
- **Arts programs to prevent school bullying**
  - Example: Metro Theater in St. Louis will measure outcomes in students participating in "Say Something, Do Something," an immersive theater program that tours schools in a St. Louis Promise Zone.
- **The arts' ability to enhance social interactions among people from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.**
  - Example: At George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, researchers will follow the longitudinal effects of marching band participation on students' stress, belongingness, and cultivation of cross-race friendships.

### NEA Research Labs

The program funds transdisciplinary research partnerships, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, that examine and report on the benefit of the arts in non-arts sectors such as healthcare, education, and business or management. Recipients are institutions of higher education or nonprofit research and policy organizations that constitute an informal network of arts researchers across the country. This announcement includes **\$645,790 awarded for five labs** [that you can read about here](#).

- Two of the labs will support research collaborations among universities, public school districts, teaching artists, and nonprofit arts organizations to study the social and emotional benefits of arts programming for elementary schoolchildren.
- Two other labs will emphasize innovation—one to develop measurement tools for studies evaluating the role of dance in health, and another to identify sustainable entrepreneurship in classical music.
- A fifth lab will examine the impact of music and the arts to help young children, psychologically and physiologically, better cope with the effects of poverty, racism, and other forms of adversity.