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National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: FY2023 Appropriations

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National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: FY2023 Appropriations

The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities is the primary vehicle for federal support for the arts and the humanities. This report compares President Biden's FY2023 appropriations request with enacted FY2022 appropriations (P.L. 117-103, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022) for the agencies comprising the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: The Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services' budget request for FY2023 totaled \$276.8 million (compared with FY2022 appropriations of \$268.0 million), the National Endowment for the Arts' budget request for FY2023 totaled \$203.5 million (compared with FY2022 appropriations of \$180.0 million), and the National Endowment for the Humanities' budget request totaled \$200.7 million (compared with FY2022 appropriations of \$180.0 million).

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Introduction

The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities is the primary vehicle for federal support for the arts and the humanities. The foundation, established in 1965, was composed initially of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was established within the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities in 1996. NEA and NEH are funded through the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. IMLS is funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This report compares President Biden's request for FY2023 appropriations with enacted FY2022 appropriations (P.L. 117-103, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022) for IMLS, NEA, and NEH. It will be updated to reflect enacted appropriations for FY2023.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

IMLS is the primary administrator of grants supporting the nation's libraries and museums. It consolidates federal library programs dating back to 1956 with museum programs dating back to 1976. IMLS grants reach all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. For FY2023, the Biden Administration requested \$276.8 million, an increase of \$8.8 million (3.3%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$268.0 million.¹

IMLS' FY2023 budget justification requested support for five priorities:

1. information and other critical literacy skills;
2. continued pandemic response, economic recovery, and community resilience;
3. digital access and infrastructure;
4. equitable engagement, including capacity building and technical assistance; and
5. civic engagement and sustaining our national heritage.

The IMLS Library Grants to States program is both the largest source of federal funding for library services in the United States and the largest IMLS-administered program. These grants are allocated, by a population-based formula, to state library administrative agencies (SLAAs) located in each of the states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. An SLAA may use IMLS Grants to States funds to support library initiatives across its state or territory, or it may distribute the funds to public, academic, research, school, or special libraries or consortia of libraries through competitive subawards or cooperative agreements.² The FY2023 request included \$170.0 million for these formula grants, an increase of \$1.2 million (0.7%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$168.8 million.

IMLS' other library programs include three competitive grant programs:

1. The Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services program supports existing library operations and maintains core library services for tribal communities.

¹ Institute of Museum and Library Services, *2023 Congressional Budget Justification*, at <https://imls.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/fy23cj.pdf> and P.L. 117-103, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

² For more information on the Grants to States, see CRS Report R46611, *Institute of Museum and Library Services Grants to States Funding Formula: In Brief*.

2. The National Leadership Grants for Libraries program supports projects that enhance the quality of library and archive services nationwide by advancing theory and practice.
3. The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program supports developing a diverse workforce of librarians to meet the changing, learning, and information needs of the American public.

For these three programs for FY2023, IMLS requested \$31.1 million, an increase of \$2.4 million (8.3%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$28.7 million.

IMLS' competitive grant programs for museums include the following:

- The Museums for America program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public.
- The Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services program supports Indian tribes and organizations that primarily serve and represent Native Americans.
- The National Leadership for Museums program supports projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession.

For these programs for FY2023, IMLS requested \$40.5 million, an increase of \$2.2 million (5.7%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$38.3 million.

The FY2023 request included \$6.0 million, an increase of \$0.8 million (14.7%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$5.2 million, for the grant program authorized by the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act (P.L. 108-184). The program provides grants for capacity-building, professional development, and collection access for African American museums. IMLS has supported 110 organizations in 31 states through this program.

IMLS also requested \$6.0 million, \$2.0 million (50.0%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$4.0 million, to implement the education provisions related to the National Museum of the American Latino (P.L. 116-260, Division T, Title II). In FY2023, IMLS plans to solicit applications for the inaugural program of support and financial assistance to American Latino museums and related organizations.

National Endowment for the Arts

NEA is a major source of support for all arts disciplines. Since 1965, it has awarded more than 150,000 grants totaling more than \$5.5 billion. These grants have been distributed to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. For FY2023, the Biden Administration requested \$203.6 million for NEA, an increase of \$23.6 million (13.1%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$180.0 million.³

For FY2023, NEA plans to focus on four areas:

- rebuilding the creative economy from the damage done from the pandemic;
- enhancing the agency's operations;
- promoting arts education programs to help students, families, and schools recover from the disruptions to education caused by the pandemic; and

³ National Endowment for the Arts, *Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023*, at <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEA-FY23-Cong-Budget-and-Performance-Plan.pdf> and P.L. 117-103, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

- pursuing a comprehensive approach to advancing racial equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity by extended outreach to underserved communities.

NEA's largest grant program is its state partnerships grants, which are awarded by formula to state and regional arts agencies. These agencies apply annually for this support and the funding they receive includes general funding for their priorities and designated funding for folk and traditional arts, arts education, and reaching underserved communities. The FY2023 request included \$63.6 million for these grants, an increase of \$6.1 million (10.5%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$57.5 million.

NEA's direct grants include the following:

- The Grants for Arts Projects program is the principal competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations and awards grants in a number of artistic disciplines.
- Our Town program provides competitive grants that support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, or social outcomes.
- Challenge America is a competitive program that provides support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations.

NEA also supports several national initiatives such as Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, Poetry Out Loud, and the NEA Big Read. The FY2023 request included \$95.4 million for these grant programs and initiatives, an increase of \$9.1 million (10.5%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$86.3 million.

National Endowment for the Humanities

NEH generally supports grants for humanities education, research, preservation and public programs; the creation of regional humanities centers; and the development of humanities programs under the jurisdiction of the state humanities councils. Typically, NEH grants are used to support cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio, and individual scholars. Since 1965, NEH has awarded almost \$6.0 billion in grants. For FY2023, the Biden Administration requested \$200.7 million, an increase of \$20.7 million (11.5%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$180.0 million.⁴

For FY2023, NEH plans to launch new programs, offices, and policies that

- advance equity,
- increase engagement with underserved communities, and
- confront the climate crisis.

The Federal/States Partnership program is the largest program in NEH's budget. Program grants are awarded, by formula, to state humanities agencies to increase public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities in the United States. The FY2023 request included \$63.0 million for this program, an increase of \$8.7 million (15.9%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$54.3 million.

⁴ National Endowment for the Humanities, *Fiscal Year 2023 Congressional Justification*, at <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/NEH%20FY%202023%20CJ.pdf> and P.L. 117-103, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

The FY2023 request included \$77.8 million for NEH’s direct competitive grants, an increase of \$7.8 million (11.1%) over the \$70.0 million in FY2022 appropriations. These grants are in the following areas:

- preservation and access,
- public programs,
- research programs,
- education programs,
- program development, and
- digital humanities initiatives.

The FY2023 budget request also included \$7 million for a special initiative, A More Perfect Union. This NEH-wide initiative launched in 2019 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. It builds on NEH’s background in projects that catalog, preserve, explore, and promote American history.

Further, NEH supports a Matching Grant program to stimulate and match private donations in support of humanities institutions. NEH estimates that since their start in 1977, matching grants have generated over \$1.3 billion in nonfederal funds for the humanities. The FY2023 request included \$17.3 million, an increase of \$1.7 million (10.9%) over the FY2022 appropriation of \$15.6 million for this program.⁵

Recent Appropriations

Table 1 details appropriations for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities agencies. It provides President Biden’s requested appropriations for FY2023 in comparison with enacted appropriations for FY2020 through FY2022.

Table 1. Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities: FY2020-FY2022 Appropriations and FY2023 Budget Request

(in thousands of dollars)

Agency and Program	FY2020 Enacted	FY2021 Enacted	FY2022 Enacted	FY2023 Requested
Institute of Museum and Library Services	252,000	257,000	268,000	276,800
<i>Library Grants to States</i>	<i>166,803</i>	<i>168,803</i>	<i>168,803</i>	<i>170,000</i>
<i>Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services</i>	<i>5,263</i>	<i>5,263</i>	<i>5,263</i>	<i>5,263</i>
<i>National Leadership: Libraries</i>	<i>13,406</i>	<i>13,406</i>	<i>13,406</i>	<i>15,787</i>
<i>Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>
<i>Museums for America</i>	<i>25,899</i>	<i>26,899</i>	<i>27,899</i>	<i>27,830</i>
<i>Native American/Hawaiian Museum Services</i>	<i>1,772</i>	<i>2,272</i>	<i>2,272</i>	<i>2,772</i>
<i>National Leadership: Museums</i>	<i>8,113</i>	<i>8,113</i>	<i>8,113</i>	<i>9,848</i>

⁵ Included in this \$17.3 million request is \$2.0 million from the Treasury funds account.

Agency and Program	FY2020 Enacted	FY2021 Enacted	FY2022 Enacted	FY2023 Requested
<i>Museum Grants for African American History & Culture</i>	2,731	3,231	5,231	6,000
<i>Museum Grants for American Latino History & Culture</i>	—	—	4,000	6,000
<i>Research, Analysis, and Data Collection</i>	3,013	3,513	4,513	5,650
<i>Program Administration</i>	15,000	15,500	18,500	17,650
National Endowment for the Arts	162,250	167,500	180,000	203,550
<i>State Partnerships</i>	51,840	53,540	57,540	63,600
<i>Direct Grants^a</i>	77,760	80,310	86,310	95,400
<i>Program Support</i>	1,950	1,950	2,000	2,500
<i>Administration</i>	30,700	31,700	34,150	42,050
National Endowment for the Humanities	162,250	167,500	180,000	200,680
<i>Federal/State Partnership</i>	50,028	51,576	54,348	63,000
<i>Preservation and Access</i>	19,000	19,000	19,500	22,000
<i>Public Programs</i>	13,500	13,500	14,000	15,400
<i>Research Programs</i>	14,500	14,500	15,000	17,000
<i>Education Programs</i>	12,250	13,000	13,500	14,800
<i>Program Development</i>	500	500	2,500	2,500
<i>Digital Humanities Initiatives</i>	4,600	5,000	5,500	6,050
<i>Special Initiatives</i>	4,172	5,724	5,052	6,950
<i>Matching Grants^b</i>	14,500	15,000	15,600	17,300
<i>Administration</i>	29,200	29,700	35,000	35,680

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service with data from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, appropriations acts, and congressional justifications.

Notes: Table does not include funding the agencies received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act; P.L. 116-136) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA; P.L. 117-2). For information on funding from those acts, see CRS Insight IN11409, *CARES Act Arts and Cultural Provisions* and CRS Insight IN11707, *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Arts and Cultural Provisions*.

- a. Includes Challenge America grants, Grants for Arts Projects grants, Our Town grants, and national initiatives.
- b. Includes \$2 million each year from Treasury funds account.

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