



NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

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**“NEFA has always been a fabulous resource for artists and arts organizations.”**

**Aimée M. Petrin**  
*Executive Director, Portland Ovations, Portland ME*

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**John Plukas**  
Wainwright Capital Management, Boston, MA

*Thank you to the following outgoing board members for their service: David Bury, Daniel Forrest, Mary Kelley, Peter Nessen, John Plukas, and Andrea Rogers.*

*The executive director of each New England state arts agency holds a seat on the NEFA board. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has opted not to exercise its governance role at present.*

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## IMAGE CREDITS

**Front Cover (l-r):** *Kyle Abraham (National Dance Project) by Carrie Schneider; Nan Jombang Dance Company (Center Stage) by Fiona Cullen; Cloud Eye Control (National Theater Project) by Cloud Eye Control; Universes (National Theater Project) by Jenny Graham*

**Back Cover (l-r):** *Poor Rich Boy (Center Stage), courtesy of U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Watertown Cultural Council's "Tapestry of Cultures" (Fund for the Arts) by Watertown Cultural Council; Janet Echelman's "As If It Were Already Here" on the Rose Kennedy Greenway (Fund for the Arts) by Allie Fiske*

**Page 1:** *Photo of Cathy Edwards by Judy Sirota Rosenthal*

**Pages 4 & 5 (l-r):** *Creative Communities Exchange 2015 by Michael Moore; Cedric Douglas/TheUPTruck (Fund For the Arts) by Cedric Douglas; Tari Aceh (Expeditions) presented by Wellesley College Concert Series by John Elliott; Sandglass Theater (National Theater Project) by Joe Mazza; The Nile Project (Expeditions) at Boston University by Ty Furman*



## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we come to the close of the New England Foundation for the Arts' 39th year, I am grateful to reflect on the value of this important organization. NEFA represents a unique collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts and the state arts agencies in New England, as well as private donors and philanthropies.

I was deeply engaged by the conversations I had in each of New England's states during my first months at NEFA, learning about the aspirations of our constituents. Through my travels, I have experienced the impressive diversity of our region's artistic, cultural, and physical landscapes. NEFA is proud to advance opportunities for creative people and communities.

This report gives NEFA the opportunity to share some highlights of the past year. The following are just a few examples of what NEFA accomplished in 2015:

- **Made 418 grants totaling \$3,073,759 supporting music, dance, theater, puppetry, public art, and interdisciplinary work.**
- **Celebrated the first anniversary of CreativeGround, a first-of-its-kind regional online directory of the creative sector, which demonstrates the richness of New England through over 30,000 profiles of artists and cultural organizations and businesses.**
- **Produced the second season of Center Stage, a cultural diplomacy initiative in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, touring ensembles from Morocco, Pakistan, and Vietnam across 29 American communities, reaching more than 22,800 people.**

Read on for additional highlights of NEFA's programs, which together help artists create and share work in communities throughout New England and across the U.S., and bolster the resources of the creative sector. My most sincere thanks go to an incredibly committed staff and board, our partners at the NEA and New England's state arts agencies, and our funders and donors, whose collective generosity make NEFA's work possible.

With appreciation,

*Cathy Edwards*

Cathy Edwards  
Executive Director

## GRANTS & PROGRAMS

NEFA supports artists across many forms of expression and many geographies, connecting collaborators and communities, fueling creative exchange and public discourse, and strengthening the creative economy.

Each program and project that is brought to life at NEFA builds a stronger and more dynamic infrastructure for the arts. Through grants, convenings, online tools, creative economy research, and pioneering partnerships, NEFA continues an almost 40 year history of supporting the arts.



Image Credit: Double Edge Theatre (National Theater Project) by David Weiland

Visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) for more detail on current programs and services, including:

- » **Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>** Bringing vibrant performers from abroad to the U.S. in an international exchange and cultural diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State.
  - » **Public Art** Supporting the field of public art through professional development, networking, and grantmaking through the **Fund for the Arts** program.
  - » **Creative City** Highlighting and quantifying the economic impact of the creative sector.
  - » **Creative Economy** Highlighting and quantifying the economic impact of the creative sector.
  - » **CreativeGround** Showcasing and strengthening the understanding of New England's creative sector in the region's only online directory of cultural organizations, artists, and creative businesses.
- Learn more about NEFA's grant recipients at [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org).**
- » **National Dance Project** Supporting artists and nonprofit organizations in the creation and touring of contemporary dance.
  - » **National Theater Project** Supporting the development and touring of artist-led, ensemble, and devised theater.
  - » **New England Presenting & Touring** Supporting New England organizations in the presentation of performing artists of all disciplines from the region and around the globe with professional development, technical assistance, and grant programs including Expeditions, NEST, and Presenter Travel.

**“We all need to thank you for the work you do to keep dance alive...it is great to know there are resources available to support dance like NEFA and NDP.”**

Joan Myers Brown  
 Founder/Executive Artistic Director,  
 The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO)

CONNECT

SUPPORT

STRENGTHEN



Building Networks

In June, NEFA held its fourth Creative Communities Exchange (CCX) in Keene, New Hampshire, bringing together 250 creative sector leaders from across New England. The Exchange, which rotates to different New England communities, highlights a wide range of successful initiatives from the region that leverage the local creative sector for revitalization and growth of the broader community. The goal is to advance the region's leadership on applying creative economy strategies in communities through knowledge sharing and networking.

**"Every time I attend CCX, which I've done since the beginning, I learn something new—a program or idea that helps Creative Portland do better work...It's the only chance we have to learn from our regional colleagues, and it's hugely impactful."**

Jennifer Hutchins  
CreativePortland; 2015 recipient of NEFA's Creative Economy award

Powering the Arts

NEFA has infused over \$4.3 million into the theater field since the first round of National Theater Project grants five years ago. To date, 37 new works have been supported and have toured to large and small arts presenters, military bases, universities, regional theaters, and festivals in 29 states across the U.S. Sandglass Theater (Putney, VT) toured the NTP supported work, *D-Generation: An Exaltation of Larks*, to 14 sites in 12 states across the U.S.

**"The NTP award puts us in the company of some of the most interesting ensemble theater companies in the country and brings us to the table of discussions that get to the substance of what kind of theater we want to make and why."**

Eric Bass  
co-artistic director, Sandglass Theater

Energizing Communities

*The Nile Project*, a boundary-crossing musical collaboration by traditional musicians from 11 countries along the Nile River, highlights the urgent issues of water and sustainability, worldwide. NEFA's Expeditions program supported a seven-site tour across five states in New England, with presenting partners collaborating on creating meaningful engagement activities, such as panel discussions on water politics, arts and social engagement, and international development, along

with festivals highlighting the relationship of local communities to nearby rivers.

**"Thank you for making this happen for Rivendell. The music and the discussion were fantastic. It opened the eyes of our rural kids."**

Keri Gelenian  
Principal, Rivendell Academy

# ABOUT NEFA

SUPPORTING ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES  
IN NEW ENGLAND AND BEYOND

Founded in 1976, NEFA is one of six regional arts organizations (RAOs) who work in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the state arts agencies to support arts programs on a regional basis. RAOs were created by state arts leaders in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the private sector in order to transcend state boundaries and give the public access to a greater and richer variety of arts experiences.

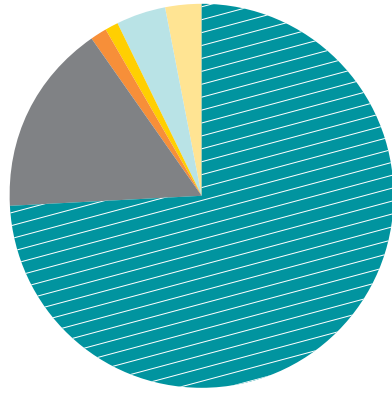
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



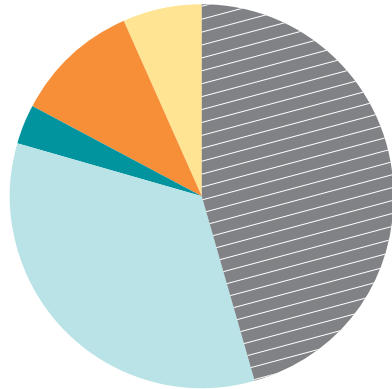
Image Credit: Aspen Santa Fe (National Dance Project) by Sharen Bradford

# FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2014-MAY 31, 2015



Source	Percentage
Foundations, corporations, & other federal	74.2%
National Endowment for the Arts	16.1%
State Arts Agencies	1.6%
Individuals	1.0%
Earned income	4.2%
Interest & dividend income	2.9%



Category	Percentage
Grants	45.7%
Program Services	33.8%
Research, documentation and evaluation	3.5%
Administration	10.5%
Communications & Development	6.5%

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash	924,131
Certificates of deposit	6,726,827
Investments	8,633,104
Grants receivable	7,346,388
Fixed assets	205,703
Other assets	63,459
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>23,899,612</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>23,899,612</b>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	178,625
Grants payable	2,161,488
Agency funds payable	74,309
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,414,422</b>
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	4,872,059
Temporarily restricted	16,613,131
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>21,485,190</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>23,899,612</b>

A complete set of audited financials is available on our website or upon request from Sharon Timmel, Development Manager, [stimmel@nefa.org](mailto:stimmel@nefa.org), 617.951.0010 x511.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions and grants	6,456,428
Service fees and other income	289,608
Interest and dividends	202,242
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>6,948,278</b>
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Grants	3,216,910
Program services	2,383,221
Research, documentation and evaluation	249,875
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>5,850,006</b>
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Administrative and general	740,523
Communications and development	459,658
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>1,200,181</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,050,187</b>
Changes in Net Assets from operations	(101,909)
Investment Return	382,713
Changes in Net Assets	(280,804)
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	<b>21,204,386</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<b>21,485,190</b>

# THANK YOU

From June 2014 through September 2015, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



asian cultural council



New Hampshire State Council on the Arts



## \$2,000,000 +

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## \$100,000 +

Asian Cultural Council  
Barr Foundation  
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art  
Embassy of the United States, Islamabad, Pakistan  
The Reva and David Logan Foundation  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation

## \$50,000 +

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

## \$10,000 +

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs  
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation\*  
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation+  
Embassy of the United States, Rabat, Morocco  
Maine Arts Commission  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Lawrence J. Simpson+  
Vermont Arts Council

## \$1,000 +

AAFCPAs\*  
Geeta and Kamesh Aiyer+  
Arthur Murray Dance Studio of Boston+  
David Bury+  
Andrew Cornell and Francesca Coltrera+  
Phyllis Dixon\*  
Lee and Amy Ellsworth+  
Newell Flather+\*  
Heather Henson  
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Andrea Rogers+  
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Wilson Butler Architects+

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Joyce Collier and Jennifer Potter\*  
Licia and Michael Conforti+  
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Lora and David Brody+  
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Lisa Crowley+  
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Cheryl Ikemiya\*  
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Nate Williams\*  
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The Colonial Theatre  
Flint & Foster  
Google AdWords  
Keene Sentinel  
Salesforce  
Struck Catering

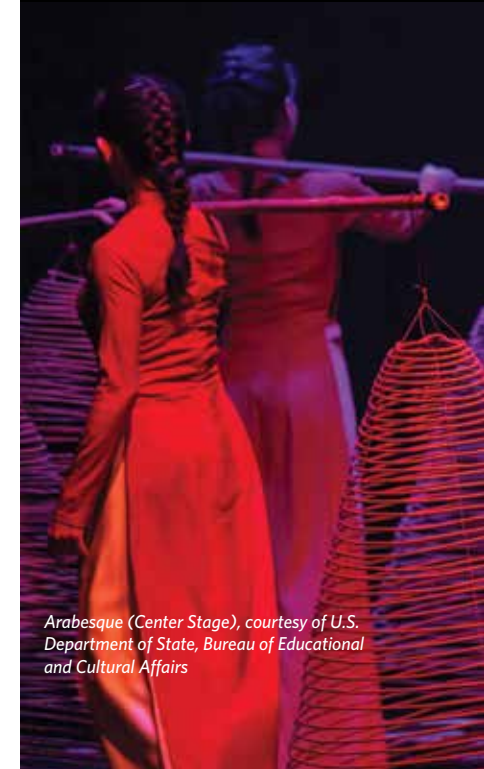
+ = Annual Fund donor  
\* = Rebecca Blunk Fund donor

For the most current list of funders and partners, visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org).

# SUPPORT NEFA

NEFA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the six state arts agencies of New England. Additional funding from individual donors, and from public and private institutions, is critically important to realizing our mission.

To make a gift or to learn more about NEFA's work, please visit us at [nefa.org](http://nefa.org), or call Sharon Timmel at 617.951.0010 x511.



*Arabesque (Center Stage), courtesy of U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*



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[www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org)

NEFA builds connections among artists, arts organizations, and funders, powering the arts to energize communities in New England, the nation, and the world.

*NEFA is a nonprofit that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations, individuals, and other government agencies.*

