The passing of NEFA’s longtime executive director Rebecca Blunk on June 22, 2014, marked the end of an era for NEFA. Blunk was a tireless champion of the arts, ranging from public art, visual arts, music, dance, theater, and puppetry — her unwavering presence was felt across the arts landscape, her work in performing arts creation and touring, the creative economy, Native American arts, and cultural exchange on an international scale. Throughout her career, she derived deep personal reward from the artists and organizations she worked with, and her unswerving commitment to the arts was inspiring. As we look to the future and continue to support Native American artists and organizations, we thank Dawn Spears (Narragansett) for her heart and leadership at the helm of this program since 2007.

This year, NEFA:

- Provided over $3.4 million in grants to recipients throughout New England and across the U.S.
- Made 400+ grants supporting music, dance, theater, puppetry, public art, interdisciplinary work, and Native American arts.
- Launched CreativeGround, a first of its kind regional online directory of the creative sector.

A round-up of grants brought the Native Arts program to a close, and this year’s report for 2014 plays back a few highlights of all of NEFA’s grants and programs which together help artists create and share work in communities throughout New England and across the U.S., and bolster the resources of an under-capitalized creative sector.

As always, we extend deepest gratitude to an incredibly committed staff and board, our state arts agency and NEA partners, and our funders and donors, whose collective generosity make NEFA’s work possible.

With appreciation,

Laura Paul
Interim Co-Executive Director

Jane Preston
Interim Co-Executive Director

Chief Operating Officer

Director of 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. Through grants, convenings, online tools, and research, and through pioneering partnerships, NEFA continues a nearly 40-year history of supporting the arts.

Visit www.nefa.org for more detail on current programs and services, including:

» 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.

» Creative Economy
Supporting the creative sector and creative placemaking work by highlighting the rich cultural activity of New England, quantifying its impact, connecting its leaders, and providing opportunities for anyone across the U.S. to apply research frameworks or New England model projects locally.

» 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.

» Public Art
Supporting the field of public art through professional development, networking, and grantmaking through Fund for the Arts.

» National Dance Project
Supporting the development and touring of contemporary dance.

» National Theater Project
Supporting the development and touring of artist-led, ensemble, and devised theater.

» Center Stage℠
Bringing vibrant performers from abroad to the U.S. in an international exchange and cultural diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State.

Learn about NEFA’s grant recipients at www.nefa.org.

Image credit: Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal (National Dance Project) by Gregory Batardon

FUND FOR THE ARTS ADVISORS

Newell Flather
Founder, Grants Management Associates, Boston, MA (retired)

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Honorary Trustee, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Geoff Hargadon
UBS Financial Services, Boston, MA

Ted Landsmark
Boston Redevelopment Authority, Boston, MA

Tyra Sidberry
Trustee, Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children
Building Connections

Launched in 2014, CreativeGround spotlights the people and places at work in New England’s creative sector. This free online directory hosts profiles of cultural nonprofits like libraries and theaters, creative businesses (think recording studios and design agencies), and artists of all disciplines. New England’s creative economy comes to life in more than 30,000 profiles featuring photos, videos, detailed search options, and more.

30,000 profiles and growing

- 4,697 performing groups
- 3,352 individual artists
- 1,015 museums
- 1,066 galleries
- 105 disciplines

Powering the Arts

Who’s Hungry is an evening of puppet plays that give voice and a face to hunger in America. Created by Los Angeles performance artist Dan Froot, New York puppetry artist Dan Hurlin, and Seattle composer Amy Denio, the piece explores issues of food insecurity. The New England tour to six communities across the region was supported through NEFA’s Expeditions program.

“It’s a very democratizing experience... decreasing the distance between people of different means.”

Dan Froot
writer & co-creator of Who’s Hungry

Energizing Communities

A stunning exhibit of work ranging from basketry to weaving, Native New England Now: Celebrating Six Years of NEFA’s Native Arts Program showcased the work of 28 artists from across New England. Bringing rare visibility to the Native American artists of this region, the exhibit was produced in partnership with the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. A companion catalogue is available on nefa.org.

“...Native New England is artistically alive and well.”

Meredith Vasta
(Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

“ STORIES FROM 2014”

| Image Credits (left to right): Cirque Alfonse (Expeditions) by Rob Strong; Who’s Hungry by Dan Froot & Dan Hurlin (Expeditions) by Jeff Woodward; Decorated Birch Bark by Sierra Henry (Nipmuc); Native Acts by Doug Cooney, Reggie Williams/Kit and Heel Performance Group (National Dance Project) by Antoine Tempé; Aion Productions (National Theater Project) by Steven Paul Whitsitt |
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.

Today, NEFA’s work is local, regional, national, and international in scope. Each program and project that is brought to life at NEFA builds a stronger and more dynamic infrastructure for the arts, supporting artists and communities and providing access to high quality arts experiences for all.

FINANCIALS
JUNE 1, 2013–MAY 31, 2014

STATION OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Contributions and grants 10,307,386
Service fees and other income 149,894
Interest and dividends 190,381
Total revenue and support 10,647,661

EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Grants 3,399,754
Program services 1,459,067
Research, documentation and evaluation 292,569
Total program expenses 5,151,390

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Administrative and general 602,896
Communications and development 424,293
Total administrative expenses 1,027,189

Total expenses 6,178,579

Changes in net assets from operations 4,469,082
INVESTMENT RETURN 783,818
Change in Net Assets 5,252,900

NET ASSETS, beginning of year 15,951,486
NET ASSETS, end of year 21,204,386

A complete set of audited financials is available on our website or upon request from Sarah Long Holland, Development Manager, slongholland@nefa.org, 617.951.0010 x511.
From June 2013 through September 2014, NEFA was generously supported by the following:

**THANK YOU**

Hitting investments in creativity, Inc.

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- Gusta & Kamesh Aver+
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- Sandra L. Burton & Don Quinn Kelley+
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- Andrew Cornell & Francesca Cultura+
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- Newell Flater+
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- Anonymous (4)
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- Julie Jenkins+
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- Alan S. Geismer+
- The Friar Family+
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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 www.nefa.org, or call Sarah Long Holland at 617.951.0010 x511.
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.