





## IN MEMORIAM: a Legacy of Arts Leadership Rebecca Blunk (1953–2014)

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of NEFA's longtime executive director Rebecca Blunk on June 22, 2014. 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 and culture landscape, through 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 administrators with whom she worked.

To honor her work and her life, NEFA has created the Rebecca Blunk Fund, in support of artistic creation and connection.

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Thank you to Lynn Martin Graton and  
Anita Walker for their service to NEFA's  
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*The executive director of each New England  
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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):

*Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal (National Dance Project) by Gregory Batardon; Poor Rich Boy (Center Stage™), courtesy of Poor Rich Boy; Doug Elkins Dance Co. (National Dance Project) by Christopher Duggan; Cradleboard by Julia Marden (Aquinnah Wampanoag) (Native Arts) by Doug Currie*

### Back Cover (l-r):

*Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group (National Dance Project) by Julieta Cervantes; Aparna Ramaswamy (National Dance Project) by Ed Rudman; Alliger Arts (Fund for the Arts) by Jason Turgeon*

### Inside Front Cover:

*Rebecca Blunk by Abigail Maulion*

Dear Friends,

NEFA's 38<sup>th</sup> year was marked as much by the powerfully inspiring work of the artists and organizations we supported as by the untimely loss of former executive director Rebecca Blunk, whose spirited dedication to this organization continues to urge all of us forward.

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 final round of grants brought the Native Arts program to a close, and seeded the exploration of an independent, Native-led consortium. 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 annual 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  
Chief Operating Officer

Jane Preston  
Interim Co-Executive Director  
Director of Programs

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



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

Visit [www.nefa.org](http://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<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.

Learn about NEFA's grant recipients at [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org).

### FUND FOR THE ARTS ADVISORS

« **Newell Flather**  
Founder, Grants Management Associates,  
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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

**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 Henries (Nipmuc) (*Native Arts*) by Doug Currie; *Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group (National Dance Project)* by Antoine Tempé; *Aion Productions (National Theater Project)* by Steven Paul Whitsitt

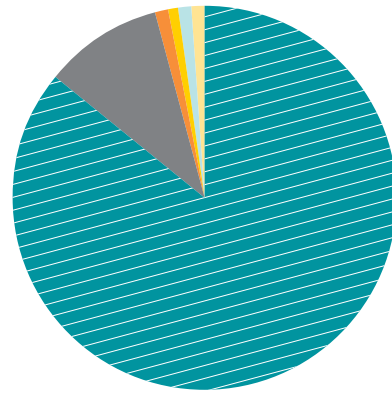
## Supporting Artists & Communities in New England and Beyond

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.

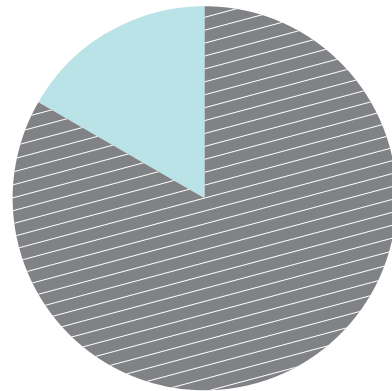
## FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2013–MAY 31, 2014



### REVENUE

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Foundations & Corporations      | 86% |
| National Endowment for the Arts | 10% |
| State Arts Councils             | 1%  |
| Individuals                     | 1%  |
| Earned income                   | 1%  |
| Interest & dividend income      | 1%  |



### EXPENSE

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Grantmaking, Research & Program Services     | 83% |
| Administration, Communications & Development | 17% |

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| ASSETS                  |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash                    | 370,800           |
| Certificates of deposit | 7,277,904         |
| Investments             | 8,052,985         |
| Grants receivable       | 7,965,466         |
| Fixed assets            | 246,820           |
| Other assets            | 156,088           |
| <b>Total assets</b>     | <b>24,070,063</b> |

| LIABILITIES                           |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 163,594          |
| Grants payable                        | 2,584,274        |
| Agency funds payable                  | 117,809          |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>              | <b>2,865,677</b> |

| NET ASSETS              |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Unrestricted            | 4,449,497         |
| Temporarily restricted  | 16,754,889        |
| <b>Total net assets</b> | <b>21,204,386</b> |

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 24,070,063**

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.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| REVENUE & SUPPORT                |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Contributions and grants         | 10,307,386        |
| Service fees and other income    | 149,894           |
| Interest and dividends           | 190,381           |
| <b>Total revenue and support</b> | <b>10,647,661</b> |

| EXPENSES                               |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>                |                  |
| Grants                                 | 3,399,754        |
| Program services                       | 1,459,067        |
| Research, documentation and evaluation | 292,569          |
| <b>Total program expenses</b>          | <b>5,151,390</b> |

| ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES              |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Administrative and general           | 602,896          |
| Communications and development       | 424,293          |
| <b>Total administrative expenses</b> | <b>1,027,189</b> |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                | <b>6,178,579</b> |

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 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**

Image credit:  
Fort Point Arts Community's  
Starry Night (Fund for the Arts)  
by Daniel J. van Ackere

# THANK YOU

From June 2013 through September 2014, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



## \$2,000,000 +

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
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National Endowment for the Arts  
U.S. Department of State's Bureau  
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## \$50,000 +

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\* = Rebecca Blunk Fund donor

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For the most current list of funders  
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To make a gift or to learn more about NEFA's work, please visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org), or call Sarah Long Holland at 617.951.0010 x511.

Image credit: The Debate Society (National Theater Project) by Robert Adam Mayer



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Boston, MA 02111 U.S.A.

[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.*

