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Thank you to the following outgoing board members for their service: Sandra Burton of Williams College, Jeremy Liu of PolicyLink, and Ted Landsmark of the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

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): *Sandglass Theater, photo by Kirk Murphy; Alonzo King LINES Ballet, photo RJ Muna; Chris Schlichting, photo by Gene Pittman*

Back Cover (l-r): *Boston-based artist Cedric Douglas works on a new public art installation on the side of Behrakis Health Sciences Center at Northeastern University on May 10, 2016. Photo by Adam Glanzman/Northeastern University; Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music at St. Ann's Warehouse, photo by Theodore Wolff*

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

Pages 3 (l-r): *Murielle Borst-Tarrant SilverCloud Singers, Don't Feed the Indians at Pangea, photo by Jinyoung Lim; Gene Pittman, courtesy Walker Art Center, photo by Adam Glanzman/Northeastern University*

Pages 4 & 5 (l-r): *Axis Dance Company, photo by David DeSilva; Daggie Hamlet, Ann Carlson, photo by Sara Nash; The Pineapple Diaries, photo by Paloma Valenzuela; Lemonade Stand (Elisa H. Hamilton and Silvia Chavez), photo by Leonardo March; Sokeo Ros, photo by Justine Jungles Bevilacqua*



DEAR FRIENDS,

It is my pleasure to share the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) annual report for 2016. We play a unique role in New England by connecting our creative people and cultural communities, and promoting greater access to the arts in our region.

NEFA invests in the arts to enrich communities in New England and beyond. We do this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. In 2016, NEFA:

- **Awarded 462 grants totaling over \$3.4 million supporting music, dance, theater, puppetry, public art, and interdisciplinary work.**
- **Increased direct investment in artists through the first two rounds of Creative City grantmaking, supporting artists in engaging with diverse communities.**
- **Launched the first phase of a creative economy employment initiative analyzing the impact of New England's creative sector, results of which will be published in spring 2017.**

This is an important year for NEFA, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. We extend our thanks to our partners at the National Endowment for the Arts and New England's state arts agencies, and all of our funders and partners, whose vision and support make NEFA's work possible. I also want to acknowledge the dedication of the NEFA staff and board, both past and present.

Read on for additional highlights and information on NEFA's programs!

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 a 40 year history of supporting the arts.

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

- » **Center StageSM** Bringing vibrant performers from abroad to the U.S. in an international exchange and cultural diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State.
- » **Creative City** Enables artists to create projects of all disciplines that take place in the public realm in the city of Boston and that integrate public participation into artistic process and presentation.
- » **National Dance Project** Supports 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 Programs** 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.
- » **Public Art** Supporting the field of public art through professional development, networking, and grantmaking through the **Fund for the Arts** program.
- » **Creative Economy** Highlighting and quantifying the economic impact of the creative sector.
- » **CreativeGround** Showcasing and strengthening the understanding of New England's creative sector through the region's only online directory of cultural organizations, artists, and creative businesses.



Andrew Ondrejčák (Elijah Green) at the Kitchen,
photo by Paula Court



Learn more about NEFA's grant recipients at www.nefa.org.

SUPPORT



CONNECT



STRENGTHEN



Powering the Arts

This year, the National Dance Project (NDP) celebrates 20 years of supporting the dance field in the U.S. *Moving Dance Forward: NEFA's National Dance Project at 20 and Critical Field Trends* highlights the accomplishments and reach of NEFA's grantmaking in dance. The National Dance Project is an essential part of the artistic landscape, supporting the creation of new works as well as touring, residencies, and professional development. NDP has invested over \$33 million in grants, supporting the creation and touring of 619 new dance works and partnering with 787 cultural organizations for 3,212 engagements, reaching all 50 states and D.C.

“The NDP Production Grant leveraged our ability to deepen relationships with presenter partners, enabling AXIS to share this new work with audiences throughout the nation...This support is emboldening.”

Judith Smith
Artistic Director, AXIS Dance Company

Building Networks

Creative City was launched in 2015 to support individual artists to enliven neighborhoods and engage communities through arts projects that integrate public participation. In the first two grant rounds, the program has awarded \$178,000 to 19 projects in Boston, and provided stipends to community partners to support the artists' projects. Creative City grantees access expertise through customized workshops and trainings based on artists' needs on topics such as business development support, fiscal sponsorship, copyright, and more.

“The support and knowledge we gained from the NEFA staff and fellow cohort members was encouraging and inspirational both during our planning and post-concert stages.”

Ashe Gordon
Castle of Our Skins, Night Songs

Energizing Communities

Hip hop dancer, choreographer, and educator Sokeo Ros of Providence, RI, was one of the inaugural recipients of the Rebecca Blunk Fund award. Established in memory of NEFA's former Executive Director to celebrate her years of service to NEFA, the Fund supports artistic development and creation of work in New England. With NEFA support, Ros was in residency in rural New Hampshire in fall 2016, working with middle and high school students, leading community workshops, and performing his latest work, *From Refugee Camp to Project*, about his life as a Cambodian refugee in Thailand and as a newcomer to the U.S.

“Sokeo's artistry and authenticity profoundly moved the intergenerational audience he attracted, generating deep intercultural dialogue.”

Sabrina Hamilton
Artistic Director, Ko Festival of Performance

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.

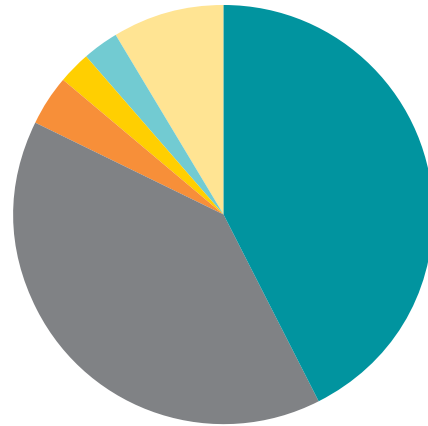
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



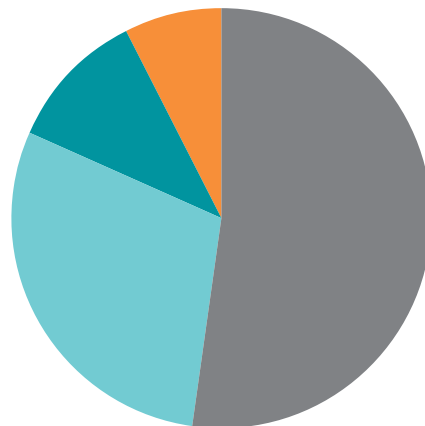
Andrew Schneider, YOUARENOWHERE,
photo by Maria Baranova

FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2015 - MAY 31, 2016



Source	Percentage
Foundations, corporations, & government	42.5%
National Endowment for the Arts	39.8%
State Arts Agencies	4.0%
Individuals	2.4%
Earned income	2.8%
Interest & dividend income	8.5%



Category	Percentage
Grants	52.3%
Program Services	29.4%
Administration	10.9%
Communications & Development	7.4%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash	1,433,822
Short-term investments	6,709,877
Contributions, grants and other receivables	3,280,456
Investments	7,934,837
Fixed assets	222,099
Other assets	154,924
Total assets	19,736,015
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TOTAL ASSETS	19,736,015
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	257,348
Grants payable	2,187,662
Fiscal agent payable	60,809
Total liabilities	2,505,819
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	264,131
Board designated — strategic opportunity and risk reserve	370,292
Board designated — funds functioning as endowment	4,053,500
Temporarily restricted	12,542,273
Total net assets	17,230,196
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	19,736,015

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions and grants	2,310,641
Service fees and other income	71,578
Interest and dividends	220,160
Total revenue and support	2,602,379
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Grants	3,414,332
Program services	1,925,349
Total program expenses	5,339,681
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Administrative and general	714,988
Communications and development	485,376
Total administrative expenses	1,200,364
Total expenses	6,540,045
<hr/>	
Changes in Net Assets from operations	(3,937,666)
Investment Return	(317,328)
Changes in Net Assets	(4,254,994)
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NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	21,485,190
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	17,230,196

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

THANK YOU

From June 2015 through September 2016, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



Department of Economic and Community Development

Office Of The Arts



\$2,000,000+

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

\$100,000+

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Islamabad, Pakistan
The Reva and David Logan Foundation

\$50,000+

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council

\$25,000+

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The Boston Foundation
The Henry Luce Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
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\$10,000+

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Embassy of the United States, Rabat, Morocco
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Vermont Arts Council

\$5,000+

Lee and Amy Ellsworth+
Maine Arts Commission
John Plukas+
Larry and Ann Simpson+

\$1,000+

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+ = Annual Fund donor

* = Rebecca Blunk Fund donor

For the most current list of funders and partners, visit 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, or call Sharon Timmel at 617.951.0010 x511.



Aspen Santa Fe, photo by Christopher Duggan



NEFA invests in the arts to enrich communities in New England and beyond. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations.

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www.nefa.org

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