

ANNUAL REPORT  
2019



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IMAGE CREDITS

**Front cover (l-r):** *Yara Liceaga Rojas, photo by Luis Cotto; Philadanco, photo by Julianne Harris; A Host of People, photo courtesy of the artists*

**Back cover (l-r):** *Cornerstone Theater Company, photo by Tim Trumble; KEIGWIN + COMPANY, photo by Allen Baldwin*

**Page 3 (l-r):** *Teatr Pralnia, photo by Friderike Heuer; Lincoln Center audience, photo by Sachyn Mital*

**Page 4 & 5 (l-r):** *Kurbasy, photo by Raymond Shaw; Mohammed Abozekry and Karkade, photo by Kalen Sowul; Dina El Wedidi, photo by Adam Lee; CCX 2019 participant, photo by Jeffrey Filiault/NEFA; Kerry Thompson, photo by Maureen White*



DEAR FRIENDS,

I am so proud of the work that we do at the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), and it is my pleasure to share our 2019 annual report. Our work supports the creative sector in New England and the nation, and celebrates art as essential to a thriving, equitable society.

Our gratitude goes to our partners at the National Endowment for the Arts and New England’s state arts agencies, and all our donors, grantees, and collaborators, whose vision and support make NEFA’s work possible. I also want to acknowledge the dedication of the NEFA staff, board, and advisory council, both past and present.

In fiscal year 2019, NEFA:

- **Awarded 430 grants totaling \$3.3 million to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation.**
- **Celebrated the first anniversary of our Advisory Council, with representatives from all six New England states, who serve as ambassadors and provide their specific expertise and knowledge.**
- **Reached the five-year mark of CreativeGround, NEFA’s directory of New England’s creative sector, which now has nearly 30,700 profiles of artists, creative businesses, and cultural nonprofits.**
- **Embraced our equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility values by supporting trainings for NEFA constituents, staff, and board, and improving the accessibility of our events, website, and other materials.**

Inside, you will find additional highlights and information on NEFA’s programs. We value your feedback, and welcome you to reach out to me and NEFA staff.

With appreciation,

*Cathy Edwards*  
Cathy Edwards  
Executive Director



## GRANTS & PROGRAMS

Our work at NEFA is simple: to cultivate and promote the arts in New England and beyond. Our programs support artists across many forms of expression and many geographies, connecting them with 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, and research, NEFA continues a 43-year history of pioneering partnerships and programs supporting the arts.

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.
- » **Creative Economy** Highlighting and quantifying the economic impact of the creative sector, including **CreativeGround**, the region's only online directory of cultural organizations, artists, and creative businesses, which showcases and strengthens New England's creative sector.
- » **National Dance Project** Supporting the creation and touring of new dance works and field-building initiatives for dance makers and dance presenters.
- » **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 and connecting New England artists to resources and networks.
- » **Public Art** Supporting the field of public art through professional development, networking, and grantmaking through the **Fund for the Arts** and through **Creative City Boston**.

"NEFA's true commitment to diversity and inclusion in the arts is clear and effective... I believe that NEFA is the organization to watch and to emulate."

Ifé Franklin, Creative City grantee







Powering the Arts

The fourth season of Center Stage, NEFA’s international cultural exchange initiative, supported artist ensembles from Ukraine and Egypt to come to the U.S. for month-long residencies that brought together artists, audiences, students, and cultural leaders. They engaged with 44 communities in 19 states and Washington, DC and interacted with over 10,000 people at 57 performances and 91 off-stage activities. In addition, four journalists traveled to the U.S. to reflect on how culture is made and shared and consider the differences and similarities of practices in the U.S. and their home countries.

“Art is probably the deepest form of communication. My opinion on the world’s perception of Ukraine became more optimistic. It was a life-changing experience.”

Sergey Illin  
Journalist, Ukraine

Building Networks

In June, NEFA held its sixth Creative Communities Exchange in Montpelier, VT, bringing together 260 leaders from various sectors across New England who connect creative work to community goals. An energizing networking and learning event, participants shared ideas and discussed strategies about how to make inclusive creative communities happen. Three Creative Economy Awards were presented at the event to exemplary models of clear community development strategies, effective collaboration, and visible impact on the New England creative economy.

“It was inspiring to hear how others have worked to engage all parts of their community in order to have an inclusive and positive outcome. After CCX, I am reassured and inspired that we can have a positive outcome through listening, hearing, persevering, and adapting.”

Meg Staloff  
Wilmington Works,  
Wilmington, VT

Energizing Communities

Following the release of a report and video series on the Creative City program, which illustrated the transformative power art can play in civic life and the importance of investing in artists as community leaders, NEFA launched Creative City Boston. Creative City Boston offers grants of up to \$20,000 to Boston area artists alongside grants to their community partners and professional development and support services for artists. This model results in positive outcomes for the artist, the community partner, the community, and the field at large. The full report, a national field scan of similar programs across the country, and a series of videos highlighting artist projects, are available at [www.nefa.org/CreativeCityLearning](http://www.nefa.org/CreativeCityLearning).

“My aim was to cultivate the relationship between Deaf/DeafBlind and the Hearing worlds, and it happened beautifully. NEFA’s support showed that the work I do has value.”

Kerry Thompson  
Grantee

# 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.

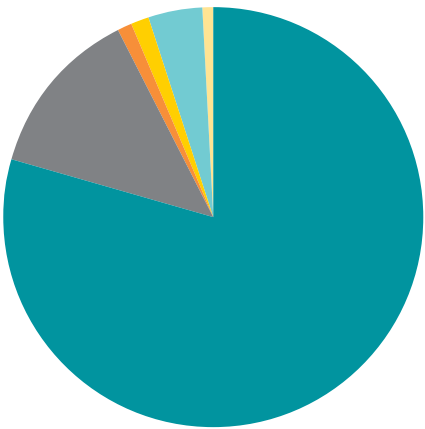
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



Youssra El Hawary, photo by Sachyn Mita

## FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2018 – MAY 31, 2019



### REVENUE

Foundations, Corporations, & other Govt.	79.5%
National Endowment for the Arts	13.0%
State Arts Agencies	1.2%
Individuals	1.3%
Earned income	4.2%
Interest & dividend income	0.8%



### EXPENSE

Grants	65.1%
Program Services	17.5%
Administration	11.7%
Communications & Development	5.6%

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash	9,042,692
Contributions, grants, and other receivables	5,238,836
Investments, short-term and long-term	10,238,925
Fixed assets	71,693
Other assets	111,739
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>24,703,885</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** 24,703,885

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	427,083
Grants payable	3,531,700
Fiscal agent payable	61,834
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,020,617</b>

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	1,649,997
Board designated—strategic opportunity and risk reserve	482,207
Board designated—funds functioning as endowment	4,713,749
Temporarily restricted	13,837,315
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>20,683,268</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** 24,703,885

## OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions and grants	8,070,745
Service fees and other income	361,141
Interest and dividends	68,049

**TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT** 8,499,935

EXPENSES	
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
Grants and related services	5,489,412
Program services	1,478,917
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>6,968,329</b>

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative and general	988,110
Communications and development	470,837
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>1,458,947</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 8,427,276

**NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** 72,659

The numbers presented in this report were unaudited at the time of printing. A complete set of audited financials is available on our website or upon request from Sharon Timmel, Development Director, [stimmel@nefa.org](mailto:stimmel@nefa.org), 617.951.0010 x511.

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



# THANK YOU

From June 2018 through May 2019, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



## \$2,000,000 +

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation\*  
Barr Foundation\*  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation\*

## \$1,000,000 +

National Endowment for the Arts  
U.S. Department of State's Bureau  
of Educational and Cultural Affairs\*

## \$100,000 +

Anonymous  
The Boston Foundation\*  
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art\*

## \$50,000 +

Massachusetts Cultural Council

## \$25,000 +

Aliad Fund at The Boston Foundation  
Ted and Mary Wendell  
U.S. Embassy, Cairo, Egypt

## \$10,000 +

Connecticut Department of Economic  
and Community Development  
National Life Group Charitable Foundation  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Larry and Ann Simpson  
Vermont Arts Council

## \$5,000 +

John and Mary-Beth Henry  
Amy Zell Ellsworth  
Maine Arts Commission  
Francis and Denise Menton

## \$2,500 +

Phyllis Dixon +  
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation  
Krupp Family Foundation  
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts  
Andrea Rogers (Vermont  
Community Foundation) +  
The Michael and Janet Rogers Foundation  
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group  
Lisa Wong and Lynn Chang

## \$1,000 +

Anonymous  
Sara Coffey and David Snyder  
Cathy Edwards and Mike Wishnie +  
Geoff Hargadon and Patricia La Valley  
Marcie Hershman +  
Newell Flather  
Erinn R. King  
Liana Krupp  
Monica A. McCarthy  
Anne Miller +  
Payden & Rygel  
John Plukas  
The James E. Robison Foundation  
UBS Financial Services

## \$500 +

Anonymous  
Baystate Financial  
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Nan Dumas +  
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Mark Leavitt  
Virginia and Timothy Millhiser  
Barbara Murphy  
Chip Newell and Susan Morris  
Jane Preston and Michael Muller +  
Alexandra Raffiani  
Ann Smith  
Pamela Tatge and Jerry Zinser

## \$250+

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Anonymous  
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Alan and Saralynn Allaire  
Joyce Collier and Jennifer Potter +  
Andrew Cornell & Francesca Coltrera  
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Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont,  
Shayne Foundation  
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Phyllis S. Wishnie  
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Carrie Zaslow and Peter Quattromani

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Art New England  
Asana  
Salesforce  
Struck Catering  
Times Argus  
Vermont College of Fine Arts  
Vermont Public Radio

*\* represents full amount of  
multi-year grant(s)*

*+ includes a donation to  
the Rebecca Blunk Fund*

# 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/donate](http://nefa.org/donate), or call Sharon Timmel at 617.951.0010 x511.



*Last Call, photo courtesy of the artists*



NEFA invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation. 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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*Traditional lands of the Massachusetts  
and the Wampanoag Peoples*

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