DEAR FRIENDS,

2020 has brought unprecedented challenges, and the long-term reality of COVID-19 and related economic downturn will continue to dramatically affect the creative sector. NEFA’s values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility continue to guide us, because the arts have a vital role in reimagining a more just future. Our 2020 annual report highlights our work, which supports the sector in New England and the nation, and celebrates art as essential to a thriving, equitable society.

NEFA’s staff has maintained a passionate commitment to our work while navigating COVID and working from home. Our team has provided critical technical assistance, emergency support, and continuity for our grantees and constituents. NEFA is a field-building organization and a grant-maker, and we’ve been stepping up with responsive strategies and leadership. As always, our sincere 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 board of directors, and advisory council, both past and present.

In fiscal year 2020, NEFA:

• Awarded 426 grants totaling over $3.5 million to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation.
• Contributed $285,000 from our Strategic Risk Reserves to support emergency artist relief in New England. With our partners at the state arts agencies in all six New England states, NEFA supported grants of $500-$1,000 to over 400 artists.
• Planned the summer 2020 launch of a New England Arts Resilience Fund, in partnership with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and our fellow Regional Arts Organizations, to support cultural organizations across the country.

Inside, you will find additional highlights and information on NEFA’s programs. We welcome your feedback, your support, and hope you and your loved ones are healthy.

With appreciation,

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.

» 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.

» 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 to present performing artists of all disciplines, providing artists with support to create and produce new work, and connecting both to resources and networks.

» Public Art Supporting the field of public art through professional development, networking, and grantmaking through work that engages the public, interacting with communities and public space.

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

“The [NEFA] staff is invested in our success and have done whatever it takes to bring it about”

George Staib
staibdance, Atlanta, GA

Learn more about NEFA’s grant recipients at www.nefa.org.
In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on working artists, NEFA’s Board of Directors approved an award of $285,000 to support emergency artist relief funds to New England artists, in partnership with the state arts agencies in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Grants ranging from $500-$1,000 supported over 400 working artists who had lost income. The $285,000 was drawn from NEFA’s unrestricted Strategic Opportunity & Risk Reserve fund.

“Artists are the core of the cultural ecosystem; this is an essential investment in the health of communities across the region.”

Ann Smith
NEFA Board Chair

NEFA’s National Theater Project, which promotes the development and touring of artist-led, ensemble, and devised theater works, celebrated its tenth year of support for the field. In addition to funding, NTP animates an informed, interactive network of producing theaters, presenters, and ensembles. Since 2010, NEFA has infused over $8.59 million into the field. To date, 75 new theater works have reached 43 states across the U.S., reaching large and small arts presenters, military bases, universities, regional theaters, and festivals. NTP has lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with additional support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

“The NTP grant has given us the means to think about our project in broader terms and to work with fewer compromises. It has enabled us to provide training for our performers, which in turn helps build the ensemble ethic and collaborative voice.”

Eric Bass
Sandglass Theater, Vermont

On March 5, NEFA gathered arts colleagues and supporters for the Celebration of Leadership, which honored arts leaders and launched artist opportunities. Arts leaders honored were Larry Simpson of Berklee College of Music, who culminated his NEFA board service after 14 years, including six as Chair, and Newell Flather, co-founder of GMA Foundations, who was instrumental in bringing the Fund for the Arts to NEFA in 1981. Artist opportunities included the inaugural Newell Flather Leadership in Public Art awards, awarded to artist Silvia López Chavez and curator Kate Gilbert of Now and There Inc, and the launch of New Work New England, a grant for New England’s artists to create work to engage the region’s communities.

“A friend once said that being honored was like receiving a long drink of water in the long struggle for lifting the arts and seeking social justice... Tomorrow we return to our tasks with renewed vigor even more committed.”

Larry Simpson
former NEFA board member and chair
Celebration of Leadership honoree
## 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.

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, 617.951.0010 x511.

For the most current list of funders and partners, visit nefa.org.

## OPERATING STATEMENT

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

- **Contributions and grants**: $8,172,463
- **Service fees and other income**: $269,579
- **Interest and dividends**: $72,384

### TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT

- $8,514,426

## EXPENSES

### PROGRAM EXPENSES

- **Grants and related services**: $5,385,513
- **Program services**: $1,498,268

### TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES

- $6,883,781

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

- **Administrative and general**: $1,058,008
- **Communications and development**: $512,925

### TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

- $1,570,933

### TOTAL EXPENSES

- $8,454,714

### NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

- $59,712

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

- **Cash**: $8,479,957
- **Contributions, grants, and other receivables**: $6,499,292
- **Investments, short-term and long-term**: $10,511,869
- **Fixed assets**: $140,826
- **Other assets**: $62,533

### TOTAL ASSETS

- $25,694,477

### LIABILITIES

- **Accounts payable and accrued expenses**: $709,799
- **Grants payable**: $3,869,386
- **Loans payable**: $334,500
- **Fiscal agent payable**: $59,809

### TOTAL LIABILITIES

- $4,973,494

### NET ASSETS

- **Unrestricted**: $1,872,246
- **Board designated—strategic opportunity and risk reserve**: $482,207
- **Board designated—funds functioning as endowment**: $4,683,679
- **Temporarily restricted**: $13,682,851

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

- $20,720,983

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

- $25,694,477
THANK YOU

From June 2019 through May 2020, NEFA has been 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
- Seedings Foundation

$25,000 +
- Alad Fund at The Boston Foundation
- Ted and Mary Wendell

$10,000 +
- Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
- John and Mary-Beth Harris
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- Larry and Arvi Simpson
- Vermont Arts Council

$5,000 +
- Berklee College of Music
- Lee and Amy Zell Ellisworth Estate of Samuel A. Miller
- Hideth Stewart Charitable Foundation
- Ernn King
- Maine Arts Commission
- Marcie Hershman

$2,500 +
- Ivan Espinosa-Madrigal and Seth Rosman
- Newell Flatter
- Geoff Hargadon and Patricia La Valley
- Lila Knupp
- The Menten Family Fund
- New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
- Payden & Rygel
- The James E. Robinson Foundation
- Andrea B. Rogers Foundation
- The Michael and Janet Rogers Foundation

$1,000 +
- Goeta Ayler
- Dr. Charles F. Desmond
- EagleClaw Capital Management
- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- Edwards and Mike Wishnie
- Min Jung Kim
- Demand Martin
- Barbara Murphy
- The Theodore Edison Parker Foundation
- John Pukas
- Dr. William U. and John Plukas
- Thrush
- Joyce Collier and Jennifer Potter
- Andrew P. Correll
- Pamela Diamantis
- In honor of Amy Ellisworth
- Alice Flatter Bledgott
- Ann Fowler Wallace
- Diane S. Gallagher
- Gary & Lesbian Fund of Vermont, at the direction of the Shayne Foundation
- Dennis and Chrissie Howe
- Jane James
- Mark Jensen
- Shubhrajivas Jani
- Michael Jordan
- Mary Kelley and Tom Field
- Jeremy and Marge Klein Ronkin
- Michelle Long and Margaret Keenan
- Ellen and Chris Lovell
- Anne B. Miller
- Karen Mittelman
- Cheri Opperman and Virginia Foskett
- Anthony and Creelie Fangaro
- Mary Phillips
- Randall Rozenbaum
- Eva Rosenbert
- Larry Rosenberg
- Douglas Sanders
- Linda Shelton
- Shapiro & Goodwin LLP
- George Waterman
- Chip Newell and Susan Morris
- Kristina Newman-Scott
- Jane Preston and Michael Mullen
- The Raffiani Family Foundation
- Alan and Joan Ruscheke
- Pamela Tatge and Jerry Zirkin
- UBS Financial Services
- Marco Verman

$250 +
- Alexander Aldrich
- Alan and Saralynn Allaire
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- James and Senari Balboa
- Ruth Bledgott, Liz Bledgott, Amy Bledgott, and Ward Bledgott
- Christal Brown
- Joyce Collier and Jennifer Potter
- Andrew P. Correll
- Pamela Diamantis
- In honor of Amy Ellisworth
- Alice Flatter Bledgott
- Ann Fowler Wallace
- Diane S. Gallagher
- Gary & Lesbian Fund of Vermont, at the direction of the Shayne Foundation
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- Shubhrajivas Jani
- Michael Jordan
- Mary Kelley and Tom Field
- Jeremy and Marge Klein Ronkin
- Michelle Long and Margaret Keenan
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- Anne B. Miller
- Karen Mittelman
- Cheri Opperman and Virginia Foskett
- Anthony and Creelie Fangaro
- Mary Phillips
- Randall Rozenbaum
- Eva Rosenbert
- Larry Rosenberg
- Douglas Sanders
- Linda Shelton
- Shapiro & Goodwin LLP
- George Waterman
- Chip Newell and Susan Morris
- Kristina Newman-Scott
- Jane Preston and Michael Mullen
- The Raffiani Family Foundation
- Alan and Joan Ruscheke
- Pamela Tatge and Jerry Zirkin
- UBS Financial Services
- Marco Verman

UP TO $249
- Jonathan Abbott and Shan Malyn
- AmazonSmile
- Stephanie Ancona
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Cathy Arden
- Daniel Ansem-O’Malley
- Bill August
- Bank of America Charitable Foundmation
- Gunard Bergman
- Patricia Blink Justice
- Sara Bobogian
- Merri Bond
- Bill and Ruth Bistow
- Katherine Brenn
- Paul Breder and Susan Wiszczorek
- Dr. Roger C. and Carol Durgy Brooks
- Cindy Rosenbaum
- Taylor Ho Bynum
- Dr. Louis and Brenda Captain
- Michael and Kimberly Bayron
- Byron and Susan Chapman
- Jag Chokshi and Sarah
- Helen Choiskh
- Ray Considine
- Lisa Crowley
- Carolyn Deuel
- Gregory Groves
- Mary Christine Dwyer
- Brenda Ecker
- Claudia Edwards &
- David J. Levin
- Mary-Ellen Efferen
- John and Mary-Beth Henry
- Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
- John and Mary-Beth Harvey
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- Larry and Arvi Simpson
- Vermont Arts Council

$500 +
- Adobe Systems Inc.
- Anonymous
- Baystate Financial
- David and Kathy Clem
- Joseph Downing
- Ecket Seamounts
- Lee Ellenberg & Ken Mitchell
- Kitty Rafter
- Robert and Bettye Freeman
- Alyce Lee
- Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Miller
- Virginia and Timothy Milhiser
- Laura Paul and Paul Messier
- Steve Weiner and Don ConМАU
- Carrie Zaslav and Peter Quattromani

SUPPORT NEFA
NEFA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) working in partnership with the 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, or call Sharon Timmel at 617.951.0010 ext. 511.
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.