The New England Foundation for the Arts envisions a nation where artists flourish and communities celebrate art as essential to a thriving, equitable society. We invest in artists and communities and foster equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation.

At the New England Foundation for the Arts, we believe that one of the roles of the arts is to make the invisible, visible. We also believe that it is not the responsibility of those who have been made invisible to remind us that they are still here. Therefore, as a committed ally, NEFA acknowledges that the ground on which we work is the traditional land of the Massachuset and Wampanoag people; we honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

NEFA also acknowledges that all the places that our distributed staff live and work, and where we provide support and hold events, are Indigenous lands. We offer our respect to the Elders — past, present, and future.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings! It’s an important time for NEFA as we enter our 45th year. Our values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility guide us as we do our work with heart and soul, supporting artists and cultural organizations that have been dramatically impacted by the pandemic.

The arts are essential — they make the difference between a good place to live, and a great place to live. They inspire, educate, and they connect communities. They help us reimagine a more just future, reflect our values, and enable social change. This is what moves NEFA’s staff every day, whether providing technical assistance on an application, ensuring everyone feels welcome to participate in NEFA’s programs, or re-structuring grant support to accommodate during these uncertain times.

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

In fiscal year 2021, NEFA:

• Awarded 413 grants totaling $5.8 million to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation.

• Awarded the first round of grants through New Work New England directly to New England artists in dance, film, interdisciplinary work, music, musical theater, opera, poetry, storytelling, and theater to support the development of new work to engage New England communities. The focus of this pilot program is on artists and the creative process, and projects that further equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

• Published a report on the first seven years of Center Stage, NEFA’s cultural diplomacy and international exchange initiative in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, while scheduling engagements with artists from Colombia and Peru and seeking nominations for artists from Argentina, Armenia, and Taiwan.

As you read this report on our 2021 fiscal year, you’ll learn about additional highlights and information on NEFA’s programs.

As always, we welcome your feedback, value your support, and hope you and your loved ones are healthy.

With appreciation,

Cathy Edwards
Executive Director

VISION

NEFA contributes to a nation where artists flourish and communities celebrate art as essential to a thriving, equitable society.

VALUES

» Artists & the creative process
» Equity, diversity, inclusion, & accessibility
» Knowledge building & sharing
» Leadership
» Partnership
» Public funding for the arts

Learn more at nefa.org/about/mission-values-history

Pamela Donchoh, photo by Brittany Gray
GRANTS & PROGRAMS: INVESTING IN ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES

NEFA connects artists and cultural organizations to opportunities, local economies to artists, and research to practice to equitably build and strengthen the arts and culture sector in New England, the U.S., and beyond. Through grants, convenings, online tools, and research, NEFA continues a 44-year history of pioneering partnerships and programs supporting the arts.

“NEFA’s support for artists comes in forms that reach beyond the monetary benefits of the grant.”
Raphael Xavier

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

VISIT WWW.NEFA.ORG FOR MORE DETAIL ON CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- 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.
SUPPORT
ADVANCING EQUITY
Public art has the power to shift public culture and cultural and artistic expressions of Black, Indigenous, People of Color are essential to more equitable and vital public spaces. Guided by that knowledge, NEFA’s Public Art program launched two new grants for Massachusetts artists and collaborators to imagine and create public art that fosters more just, vibrant, and welcoming public spaces. Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice supports teams of artists, creatives, and community-based collaborators to reimagine more just public artmaking in their communities; Public Art for Spatial Justice supports more just public artmaking projects. To date, $424,000 has been awarded through 52 grants made across the state.

CONNECT
BUILDING NETWORKS
In response to the impact of COVID-19 on the nation’s arts infrastructure, NEFA launched the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of a national initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. With the addition of public funding from the CARES act, and more recently from the American Rescue Plan, the fund supports New England nonprofits and cultural organizations with recovery and planning capital. The fund prioritizes organizations, communities, populations, and art forms that have historically had less access to major financial resources for sustainability and seeks to support organizations that are led by and deeply engage communities of color.

“New Bedford Creative’s Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice project was groundbreaking and integral to the social, economic, and cultural development in New Bedford, Massachusetts.”
Jaasmyn Baird
Senior Creative Fellow, New Bedford Creative

“There was a groundswell of support...allowed Tomaquag Museum to remain visible and vibrant throughout the pandemic utilizing virtual strategies of engagement for children, youth, adults, and elders. Through leveraging the grant, we were able to gain additional funding which allowed us to finish the year with additional staff. In essence, we are coming out of the pandemic stronger than we have ever been.”
Lorén Spears (Narragansett/Niantic)
Tomaquag Museum & Indigenous Arts

STRENGTHEN
INVESTING IN CULTURE
Artists grappled with a global health pandemic, economic downturn, and racial injustice – and the National Dance Project and National Theater Project teams drew on NEFA’s values to provide flexibility and intentionality in assisting them. Panel meetings shifted from in-person to virtual, and program advisors were prepared with strengthened evaluation practices. Timelines were extended, and those who did not receive Creation/Production awards were awarded smaller unrestricted awards to invest in their creative growth and sustainability. Grant disbursement timelines were adjusted, touring funds were used for general operating support, and touring periods were extended - remaining nimble was essential to supporting grantees in the manner they felt most helpful.

“The response during the pandemic was a great example of how NEFA’s values are reflected in the program management — engaging us in direct conversations about how to adapt, shift funds, giving significant flexibility for us to re-design our plans as needed.”
Carrie Brunk
Clear Creek Creative

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021
**Financials**  
**June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021**

### Revenue & Support

- Contributions and grants: $11,256,431
- Service fees and other income: $13,452
- Interest and dividends: $26,032

**Total Revenue and Support:** $11,295,915

### Expenses

- Program expenses: $9,477,085
  - Grants and related services: $7,648,743
  - Program services: $1,828,342
- Administrative expenses: $1,782,325
  - Administrative and general: $1,209,565
  - Communications and development: $572,760

**Total Expenses:** $11,259,410

**Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit):** $36,505

### Revenue

- Foundations, Corporations, & other Government: 88.8%
- National Endowment for the Arts: 8.9%
- State Arts Agencies: 1.0%
- Individuals: 1.0%
- Earned income: 0.1%
- Interest & dividend income: 0.2%

### Expenses

- Grants: 67.9%
- Program Services: 16.2%
- Administration: 10.7%
- Communications & Development: 5.1%

**Statement of Financial Position**

### Assets

- Cash: $5,768,326
- Contributions, grants, and other receivables: $9,096,831
- Investments, short-term and long-term: $14,028,925
- Fixed assets: $714,408
- Other assets: $333,566

**Total Assets:** $29,742,056

### Liabilities

- Accounts payable and accrued expenses: $503,958
- Grants payable: $5,343,313
- Fiscal agent payable: $59,809

**Total Liabilities:** $5,907,080

**Net Assets:**

- Unrestricted: $1,906,807
- Board designated—strategic opportunity and risk reserve: $440,023
- Board designated—funds functioning as endowment: $5,998,185
- Temporarily restricted: $15,489,961

**Total Net Assets:** $23,834,976

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets:** $29,742,056

**Operating Statement**

- Contributions and grants: $11,256,431
- Service fees and other income: $13,452
- Interest and dividends: $26,032

**Total Revenue and Support:** $11,295,915

**Expenses**

- Program expenses: $7,648,743
- Program services: $1,828,342
- Administrative expenses: $1,209,565
- Communications and development: $572,760

**Total Administrative Expenses:** $1,782,325

**Total Expenses:** $11,259,410

**Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit):** $36,505

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 NEFA’s Development Department, development@nefa.org, 617-865-1845.

For the most current list of funders and partners, visit nefa.org.
NEFA was generously supported by
From June 2020 through May 2021,
FUNDERS & PARTNERS
Includes a donation to the Rebecca Blunk Fund
Includes a donation to New Work New England
Includes a donation to Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Includes a donation to Vermont Arts Council
Includes a donation to Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission

$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 ♦
Aliad Fund at The Boston Foundation ♦
Anonymous ♦
Mary and Ted Wendell ♦
$50,000 +
Mass Cultural Council Seedlings Foundation ♦
$25,000 +
Abiad Fund at The Boston Foundation ♦
Mary and Ted Wendell ♦
$10,000 +
Arthur Murray Boston Area ♦
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development ♦
Enis King ♦
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts ♦
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts ♦
Vermont Arts Council ♦
Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission ♦

$2,500 +
Anonymous, Vermont Community Foundation ♦
The James E. Robison Foundation ♦
The Michael and Janet Rogers Foundation ♦

$1,000 +
Robert Blunk ♦
Cathy Edwards and Mike Wohrle ♦
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$500 +
Adobe ♦
Anonymous ♦
Anonymous ♦
Pamela Diamantis ♦
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$250+
Alexander Aldrich ♦
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To make a gift or to learn more about NEFA’s work, please visit us at nefa.org/donate, or call our development department at 617-865-1845

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.

GIFTS IN KIND
Pia Agrawal ♦
Asana ♦
Taylor Ho Byun ♦
Cadwell Sign ♦
Caption Logic ♦
Nate Grant ♦
Mina Kim ♦
Salesforce ♦

National Dance Project supported
Dianne McIntyre, photo by Ian Douglass

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE:

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.