

ANNUAL REPORT
2022





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.



IMAGE CREDITS

Front Cover (l-r): New England States Touring-supported Burlington City Arts presents Nimble Arts, photo by Isora Lithgow Creations; National Theater Project-supported PearlDamour’s *Ocean Filibuster*, photo by Maggie Hall; New England States Touring-supported Celebrity Series of Boston presents Albino Mbie, photo by Robert Torres.

At left (top-bottom): NEFA staff, photo by Victoria Silva Photography; New England States Touring-supported Bates Dance Festival presents Vanessa Anspaugh, photo by JHsu Media; New England States Touring-supported Burlington City Arts presents Nimble Arts, photo by Kyle Tansley; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Elevated Thought, photo by Destiny Medina; New England States Touring-supported Bourne Historical Society hosted Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal member Phillip Wynne and Herring Pond Tribal member Troy Currance at the Museums at Aptucxet, photo by Pam Chmielinski.

Back Cover: Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Jean Appolon, Expressions photo by Keren He; National Theater Project-supported PearlDamour’s *Ocean Filibuster*, photo by Pin Lim; New England States Touring-supported Bourne Historical Society hosted Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal member Marlene Lopez who demonstrates belt weaving at Wampanoag Day, photo by Pam Chmielinski.

Pages 6-7 (l-r): Lilly Rose Valore performs at the *New England Now* Dance Platform, photo by Olivia Moon Photography; Center Stage ensemble Lundú of Peru, photo courtesy of Lundú; State Representative Vanna Howard at Newell Flather Award recipient Christa Brown/Free Soil Arts Collective’s Juneteenth Celebration, photo by Marte Media; Newell Flather Award recipient Marquis Victor/Elevated Thought’s mural, photo courtesy of Elevated Thought.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

As I reflect on NEFA's 45th year of supporting artists and cultural organizations, I see how much NEFA's values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility have guided our work with integrity and care.

The arts are essential to creating equitable communities; they help us to appreciate differences, challenge our thinking, and enable social change. At NEFA, we work through this lens every day, through assisting with grant applications, hosting virtual or in-person workshops and events, and more.

It is this level of commitment that provided a smooth path for a leadership transition. As chief operating officer, I worked with former executive director Cathy Edwards for five years before she decided to step down from this role in May of 2022; her vision and leadership over the years were instrumental in the creation of our transition plan, including my stepping into the role of interim executive director. I want to acknowledge the commitment of the entire NEFA staff and the board of directors for their contributions and support.

We thank our partners at the six New England state arts agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, as well as our donors, grantees, and collaborators, whose support make NEFA's work possible.

In fiscal year 2022, NEFA:

- Awarded 485 grants totaling over \$4.8 million to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation.
- Awarded a third round of New England Arts Resilience grants with support from the American Rescue Plan, supporting 73 arts and culture nonprofit organizations with recovery and planning capital for a post-pandemic future.
- Awarded the Newell Flather Awards for Leadership in Public Art, which annually celebrate Massachusetts artists, curators, and arts administrators in the field of public art who have demonstrated leadership in contributing to this evolving field. Newell, who passed away last year, was instrumental in establishing public art at NEFA and it was an honor to be able to present additional awards this year.

As you read this report on our 2022 fiscal year, you'll learn about additional highlights and information on NEFA's programs. We value your feedback and your support.

With appreciation,



Jug Chokshi
Interim Executive Director

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.

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

National Theater Project-supported Unit Souza's *Risk/Reward*,
photo by Ross Peter Nelson

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 45-year history of pioneering partnerships and programs supporting the arts.

"Amidst the chaos of the last 18 months, NEFA was steadfast, clear, supportive, forward thinking, and trustworthy."

George Staib, staibdance



New England States Touring-supported Ko Theatre Works presents Serious Play Theatre Ensemble, photo by Sabrina Hamilton

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 Economy** Highlighting and quantifying the economic impact of the creative sector, including CreativeGround, a dynamic regional directory that celebrates and reflects the vital work of New England's artists, creatives, culture bearers, creative organizations, and businesses.
- » **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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022



SUPPORT ADVANCING EQUITY

Delayed a year by the pandemic, the Regional Dance Development Initiative (RDDI): *New England Now* was a year-long artist-led field building program of NEFA's National Dance Project. The latest of seven RDDI experiences across different regions of the U.S., *New England Now* fostered a culture of abundance and community building through three components: a week-long dance lab for the 12 cohort artists, lab faculty, and mentors; a virtual intersections summit exploring the leadership that dance plays alongside New England industries, such as education, the sciences, and community organizing; and the *New England Now* Dance Platform, which featured works by the 12 cohort artists

along with six additional regional artists curated by the cohort, who worked together to center equity, inclusion, and care for dance.

"I learned so much personally from the work, but even more I found myself excited to be a part of a greater community of dance artists in New England, connections and friendships that will support me through the coming years."

Heidi Henderson
elephant JANE dance

CONNECT BUILDING NETWORKS

NEFA's Center Stage program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State, brings performing artists from abroad to the U.S. for artist exchange and cultural diplomacy. Now entering Season 7 with artists from Ethiopia, the Philippines, and South Africa, in 2022 the program managed tours, delayed by the pandemic, of ensembles from Colombia and Peru from Season 5 while also planning Season 6 tours of ensembles from Argentina, Armenia, and Taiwan. Through Center Stage, artist fees, international and domestic travel, and logistics (including visas and taxes) are fully managed and substantially underwritten, making it possible for small and mid-size communities to host international dance, theater, and music ensembles for rich exchange experiences.

"Each international artist we present builds on our commitment to providing a more global understanding, especially to the young people in our community. This [Lundú] residency definitely supported our efforts in moving those intentions forward."

Charlie Robin
The Capitol Theatre, Yakima, WA

STRENGTHEN INVESTING IN CULTURE

In 2022, NEFA celebrated four leaders who demonstrate commitment to their communities with the Newell Flather Award for Leadership in Public Art. Founded in 2020 in honor of the life and legacy of the late Newell Flather (1938-2021), this award annually honors Massachusetts artists, curators, and arts administrators who have demonstrated leadership in this evolving field of public art. Each recipient receives a \$5,000 unrestricted award. Out of 50 nominations, the adjudicators selected:

- Christa Brown, founder and executive director of the Free Soil Arts Collective, Lowell, MA
- Rob "Problak" Gibbs, artist, educator, and co-founder of Artists for Humanity, Boston, MA

- Catherine T. Morris, director of arts & culture at The Boston Foundation and founder of BAMS Fest, Boston, MA
- Marquis Victor, founder and executive director of Elevated Thought, Lawrence, MA

"[W]hat does public art look like when it's really driven by the community and the voice, and people can see themselves in the work? And see their stories in the work? I think that's always been important for us. And I think now I'm grateful that we're able to do that more and more."

Marquis Victor
Elevated Thought

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.

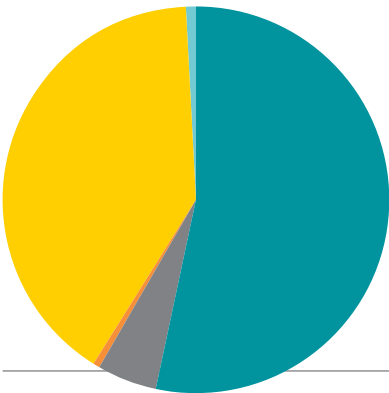
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



Choreography by Heidi Henderson at the New England Now Dance Platform,
photo by Olivia Moon Photography

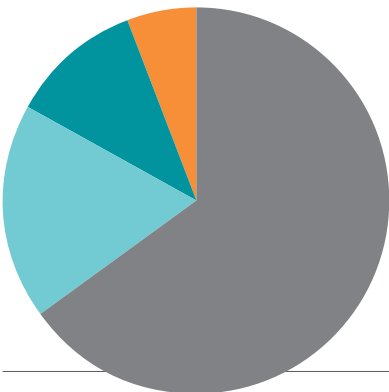
FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2021 – MAY 31, 2022



REVENUE

Foundations, Corporations, & other Government	53.4%
National Endowment for the Arts	5.0%
State Arts Agencies	0.5%
Individuals	40.4%
Earned income	0.6%
Interest & dividend income	0.0%



EXPENSE

Grants	65.2%
Program Services	18.2%
Administration	11.1%
Communications & Development	5.6%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash	13,448,619
Contributions, grants and other receivables	8,403,754
Investments, short-term and long-term	13,087,544
Fixed assets	684,129
Other assets	129,567
Total assets	35,753,613

TOTAL ASSETS 35,753,613

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	588,271
Grants payable	6,004,870
Fiscal agent payable	59,809
Total liabilities	6,652,950

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	4,211,997
Board designated — strategic opportunity and risk reserve	339,018
Board designated — funds functioning as endowment	10,862,135
Temporarily restricted	13,687,513
Total net assets	29,100,663

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 35,753,613

OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions and grants	19,953,117
Service fees and other income	111,486
Interest and dividends	8,403

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT 20,073,006

EXPENSES	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Grants and related services	7,989,661
Program services	2,228,342
Total program expenses	10,218,003

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Administrative and general	1,358,741
Communications and development	684,697
Total administrative expenses	2,043,438

TOTAL EXPENSES 12,261,441

NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 7,811,565

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, 617-865-1846.

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

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

From June 2021 through May 2022, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



KEY	
●	Represents full amount of multi-year grant(s)
▲	Includes a donation to New Work New England
■	Includes a donation to the Rebecca Blunk Fund

\$5,000,000+

MacKenzie Scott & Dan Jewett
U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs ●

\$2,000,000 +

Barr Foundation ●
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation ●
Mellon Foundation ●

\$1,000,000 +

National Endowment for the Arts

\$100,000 +

Anonymous
The Boston Foundation ●

\$50,000 +

Massachusetts Cultural Council
Seedlings Foundation ●

\$25,000 +

Aliad Fund at The Boston Foundation ●
Mary & Ted Wendell

\$10,000 +

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Erinn King
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Vermont Arts Council

\$5,000 +

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Amy and Lee Ellsworth
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\$2,500 +

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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, or call our development department at 617-865-1846.



Choreography by Sarah Duclos at the New England Now Dance Platform, photo by Olivia Moon Photography

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COUNCILS, & STAFF

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

Amy Zell Ellsworth, Randall Rosenbaum,
and Ted Wendell.



shawni collins performs at the *New England Now*
Dance Platform, photo by Olivia Moon Photography

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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.

1000 Washington Street, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02118
Traditional lands of the Massachuset and the Wampanoag Peoples

www.nefa.org