

ANNUAL REPORT
2023





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 where 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: Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Cedric “VISE1” Douglas, by Devin Hindley; New England States Touring (NEST)-supported Shakia Barron and Barbie Diewald, by JHsu Media; and NEST-supported Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity presents Pascuala Ilabaca, photo by Carlos McBride

At left (top-bottom): NEFA staff, photo by Iván Espinoza-Madrigal; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Barrington Edwards’ Imagined Future Spaces, photo by Charles Lloyd; New England Dance Fund-supported Mariona Lloretta, photo by Diego Mendes; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Ashton Lites’ East Park Session City skate contest winners, photo by Ashton Lites; and Center Stage artists Femina at Tigre Studios, by Gabrielle Peige

Page 2 (l-r): NEST-supported Bates Dance Festival presents Shura Baryshnikov, photo by Trisha French; NEST-supported Bates Dance Festival presents Rennie Harris Puremovement, photo by JHsu Media; National Theater Project-supported PearlDamour, photo by Osmany Torres

Back Cover: NEST-supported Mahaney Arts Center at Middlebury College presents Burlington Taiko, photo by Todd Balfour; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Ashton Lites’ East Park Session City Tour Popsicool owners, courtesy of Ashton Lites; and Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Waltham Black Future Fund mural showing portraits of activists Mel King and Virginia Monroe, photo by Devin Hindley

Pages 6-7 (l-r): Center Stage artists Resident Island Dance Theatre by Emily Y. Wu, Ghost Island Media; NEST-supported BarnArts presents Lakou Mizik, photo by Myra Howe Hudson; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Jessica Roseman, photo by Olivia Moon Photography; and NEST-supported Portland Ovations presents Garba360, photo by Katie Day.

CONTENTS

2 Letter from the Executive Director

3 Vision & Values

4 Grants & Programs

6 Highlights from 2023

8 About NEFA

9 Financials

10 Funders & Partners

11 Support NEFA

12 Board of Directors, Committees, Councils, & Staff

DEAR FRIENDS,

As NEFA's new executive director, I am pleased to share this report on our work over the past year.

Though I began my role in July of 2023, I had the opportunity to connect with staff and board in the months preceding my formal start. I observed how staff listen and gather feedback from the field and how that impacts our values-driven work. As we begin a new strategic planning process, we will reach out for your thoughts and feedback.

I want to thank NEFA's chief operating officer Jug Chokshi, who served as NEFA's interim executive director, and the full staff for their passion for our work and for supporting each other. Their conviction is reflected in the ways in which we support artists and organizations to do what they do best. I also want to thank our partners at the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, the six New England state arts agencies, as well as our donors, grantees, and collaborators, whose support makes NEFA's work possible.

In fiscal year 2023, NEFA:

- Awarded 457 grants totaling over \$4.3 million to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation.
- Hosted the 20th annual Idea Swap, where New England-based nonprofit cultural organizations and touring artists gather to network and share ideas for touring projects. This was the first in-person Idea Swap since the pandemic.
- Completed a leadership transition with the help of a board search committee and an enthusiastic staff.

I hope you'll learn a bit more about our programs as you peruse this report. As always, we value your feedback and support.

With much appreciation,



Harold Steward
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, intersectionality, & accessibility
- » Knowledge building & sharing
- » Leadership
- » Partnership
- » Public funding for the arts

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



New England States Touring (NEST)-supported Pinkerton Academy presents David Dorfman Dance, photo by Shannon Mayers



GRANTS & PROGRAMS: INVESTING IN ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES

NEFA connects artists and cultural organizations to opportunities, local economies to artists, and research to practice in order to equitably build and strengthen the arts and culture sector throughout New England, the U.S., and beyond. Through grants, convenings, online tools, and research, NEFA continues a 47-year history of pioneering partnerships and programs supporting the arts.

"The open-ended nature of the grant allowed us to release productive expectations and embrace creativity, collaboration, and intentional creation."

Iva Brito, Tobey Eugenio, Kristin McCullin, and Emma York, New Bedford-based recipients of a Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice grant

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 StageSM** Bringing contemporary international performing artists into direct contact with people across a wide range of U.S. communities through this cultural exchange program of the U.S. Department of State.
- » **Creative Economy** Highlighting and quantifying the New England creative sector, primarily through CreativeGround, a dynamic directory and research database that celebrates the vital work of New England's artists, creatives, culture bearers, cultural organizations, and creative businesses.
- » **National Dance Project** Supporting the creation and U.S. touring of new dance projects and field-building initiatives for dance.
- » **National Theater Project** Supporting the creation and touring of U.S. based, devised ensemble theater projects through direct funding and a cultivation of an informed, interactive network of ensembles, artists, and presenters throughout the field.
- » **New England Programs** Supporting New England organizations to present performing, film, and literary artists and connecting artists and presenters to resources and networks.
- » **Public Art** Supporting the evolving field of public art through grantmaking and field-building collaborations, inspiring more vibrant public spaces and public life throughout the region.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023



SUPPORT ADVANCING EQUITY

Feedback from grantees and the field at large is essential to NEFA's program design. The Public Art program staff made changes across their grants, resulting in increased flexibility, new learning cohorts, and in the case of the Public Art for Spatial Justice (PASJ) grant, an increase in the grant amount and the length of the grant period, enabling artists to work with increased care and intentionality. Launched in 2020, PASJ was created in response to the perpetuation of systemic racism across the nation with the aim to support public art making that helps us see, feel, experience, and imagine spatial justice now.

"We aren't looking for artists to do twice as much with the increase in funding and time, but rather to be able to move with more care and intentionality in the artmaking process."

Kim Szeto
Senior Program Director,
Public Art

CONNECT BUILDING NETWORKS

CreativeGround, NEFA's website for creative economy network and knowledge building since 2014, was completely overhauled with essential technical upgrades and a focus on accessibility, data sharing, and community engagement. The platform enables the creative people and places at work in the six New England states to share who they are, what they do, and what they contribute, and serves as the official cultural directory for the region's state arts agencies. Built on NEFA's 45+ year history of defining the people and places of the creative sector and analyzing the economic impact of where they work and with whom, CreativeGround remains the only searchable creative economy research database/asset map in the U.S. that is updated directly by the community.

"It is one of the biggest and best asset mapping projects where states like Connecticut are able to tap into data points and really get to know the impact of the arts sector and the creative economy."

Tamara Dimitri
Connecticut Office of the Arts

STRENGTHEN INVESTING IN CULTURE

The National Theater Project offers a full system of support for devised theater, which, in addition to funding, animates an informed, interactive network of producing theaters, presenters, and ensembles. Since 2010, NTP has infused over \$11 million into the field. An evaluation of the first 10 years of the program demonstrates:

- How NEFA's equity, diversity, intersectionality, and accessibility (EDIA) values drive the program design.
- How diversifying and strengthening the field are reflected in the grantees and project tours.
- How NTP's regional convenings and cohort meetings remain an essential piece of program design.

- How the program design strengthens connections among participants and the field at large.

The report includes recommendations that will enable NEFA to deepen support of grantees and the development of the field. View the report at www.nefa.org/resources/publications.

"NTP always filled a void in the field. Funds for original and devised work are scarce. Funds for touring and developing relationships with the community are rare. There are few if any programs doing the same work."

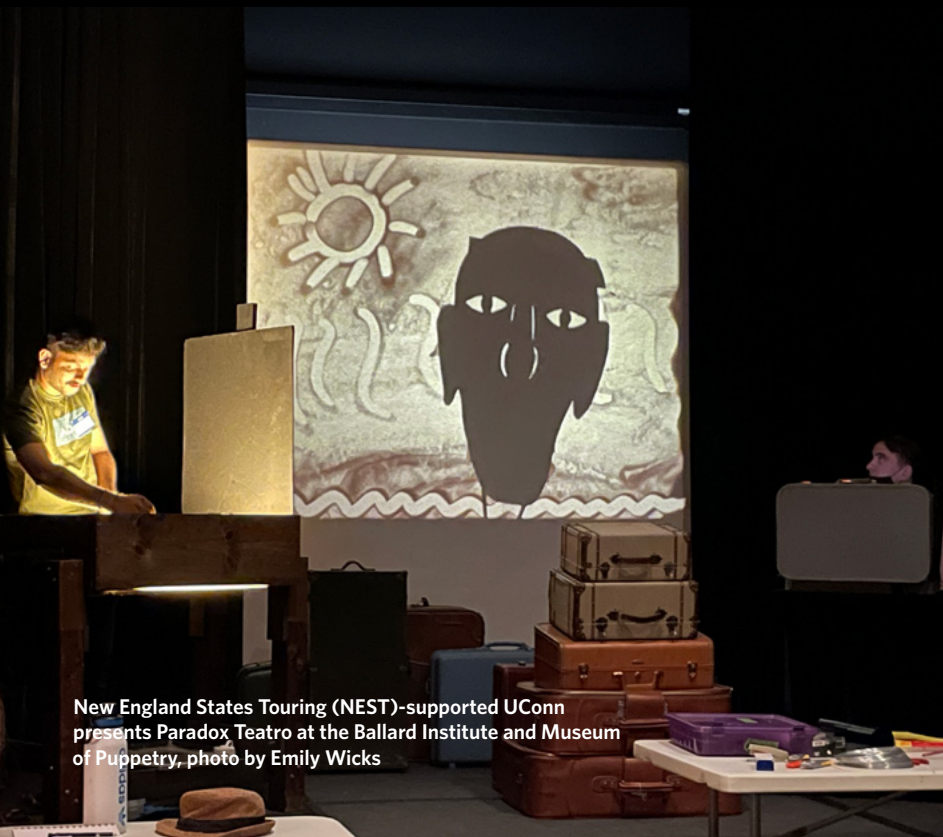
NTP Artist
surveyed for the evaluation

ABOUT NEFA

SUPPORTING ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES
IN NEW ENGLAND AND BEYOND

Founded in 1976, NEFA is one of six regional arts organizations (RAOs) working 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.

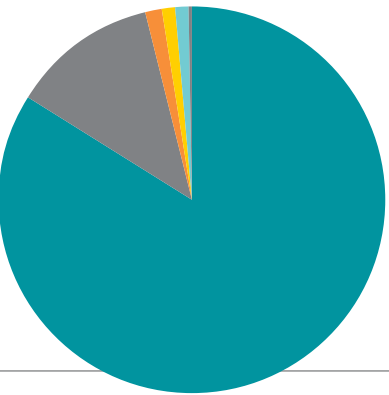
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



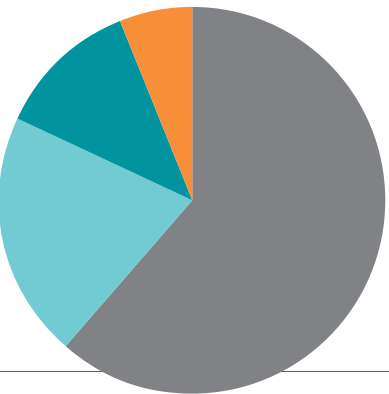
New England States Touring (NEST)-supported UConn presents Paradox Teatro at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, photo by Emily Wicks

FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2022 – MAY 31, 2023



Foundations, Corporations, & other Government	84.0%
National Endowment for the Arts	12.3%
State Arts Agencies	1.2%
Individuals	1.2%
Earned income	1.2%
Interest & dividend income	0.1%



Grants	61.5%
Program Services	20.7%
Administration	11.9%
Communications & Development	6.0%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash	12,849,276
Contributions, grants and other receivables	5,236,007
Investments, short-term and long-term	15,887,094
Fixed assets	815,252
Other assets	123,877
Total assets	34,911,506

TOTAL ASSETS 34,911,506

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	144,869
Grants payable	6,192,435
Fiscal agent payable	59,809
Total liabilities	6,397,113

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	656,608
Board designated funds	15,181,851
Temporarily restricted	12,675,934
Total net assets	28,514,393

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 34,911,506

OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions and grants	11,325,222
Service fees and other income	132,466
Interest and dividends	12,649

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT 11,470,337

EXPENSES	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Grants and related services	7,045,216
Program services	2,364,832
Total program expenses	9,410,048

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Administrative and general	1,358,741
Communications and development	682,435
Total administrative expenses	2,041,176

TOTAL EXPENSES 11,451,224

NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 19,113

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 2022 through May 2023, NEFA was generously supported by the following:





KEY

• Represents full amount of multi-year grant(s)

■ Includes a donation to the Rebecca Blunk Fund

\$2,000,000 +

Barr Foundation •
Doris Duke Foundation •
Mellon Foundation •
U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs •
The Wallace Foundation •

\$1,000,000 +

National Endowment for the Arts

\$100,000 +

The Boston Foundation •

\$50,000 +

Massachusetts Cultural Council
Seedlings Foundation •

\$25,000 +

Aliad Fund at The Boston Foundation
The Henry Luce Foundation
Mrs. Mary M. Wendell and Mr. Edward E. Wendell Jr.

\$10,000 +

Alan and Saralynn Allaire
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Erinn King
Maine Arts Commission
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina
U.S. Embassy, Yerevan, Armenia
Vermont Arts Council

\$5,000 +

Amy B. Ellsworth
John and Mary-Beth Henry
Payden & Rygel
David Snyder

\$2,500 +

Anonymous,
Vermont Community Foundation ■
Marcie Hershman ■
The James E. Robison Foundation
The Michael and Janet Rogers Foundation

\$1,000 +

Dr. Kamesh Ramakrishna
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Westminster Barrington Foundation
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Marcum LLP
Frank Mitchell
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Jane Preston and Michael Muller ■
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Garo Toomajian and Marc Harpin
Trillium Asset Management
Your Part-Time Controller

\$250+

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Anonymous
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UP TO \$249

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Anonymous
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GIFTS IN KIND

Arts Consulting Group (ACG)
Asana
Todd Hanson
Salesforce

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



New England States Touring (NEST)-supported Sandglass Theater presents Parris-Bailey Arts, photo by Kirk Murphy

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
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Magdalena Abrego, Edwige Charlot,
David Greenham, Douglas Keith,
Virginia Lupi, Karen Mittelman,
Barbara E. Murphy, and Madeline Sayet.



New England States Touring (NEST)-supported
Blues to Green presents William Cepeda,
photo by David Molnar

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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.

321 Harrison Ave, Suite 420, Boston, 02118
Traditional lands of the Massachuset and the Wampanoag Peoples

www.nefa.org

nefa
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS