

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



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: National Dance Project (NDP)-supported slowdanger, by Allina Yang; NDP-supported Urban Bush Women, photo by Woolser Delisfort; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Louis D. Brown Peace Institute’s Peace Poles, by Ruth Henry.

At left (top-bottom): NEFA Staff; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Louis D. Brown Peace Institute’s Peace Poles, by Luis Antonio Thompson; New England States Touring (NEST)-supported Next Stage Arts Project presents Crocodile River, by Kelly Fletcher; New England Dance Fund-supported Tristan Koepke, by MK Ford; NDP-supported Jasmine Hearn, by Jakayla Monay.

Page 2 (l-r): New England Dance Fund-supported Lauren Horn, photo by Kate McCabe; Public Art for Spatial Justice-supported Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA), “Diaspora Colors: Dejando Huellas,” by Bryan Lasky.

Page 6-7 (l-r): ArtsHERE-supported Castle of Our Skins, by Ciyadh Wells; Center Stage artists Ethiocolor, by Bailey Holiver; Public Art for Spatial Justice supported Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr. “Indigenous Village Site in Nipnet,” by Scott Foster Photography; and Idea Swap 2023, photo by Jeffrey Filaault/NEFA.

Back Cover: NDP-supported Adia Tamar Whitaker, by India Basin; NEST-supported Sandglass Theater presents Les Sage Fous, by Marianne Duval; and NEST-supported Bombyx Center for Arts + Equity presents Orchestre Tout Puissant Marcel Duchamp, by Cedric Pilard at Story Eyed Media.

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A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GRATITUDE WITH NEFA

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director of NEFA, it is my pleasure to share with you the achievements of our fiscal year 2024. This has been a remarkable year of growth, learning, and deepened connections, and I am immensely grateful for your support and collaboration.

Reflecting on this journey, I am reminded of the words of Nora Chipaumire, a National Dance Project recipient: "NEFA's commitment to diversity and inclusion was evident, providing a platform to uplift underrepresented voices in the arts."

I am especially thankful for the passion and steadfast commitment of the NEFA staff. Their experience, ideas, and relationships with the field are the backbone of our successes.



In fiscal year 2024, NEFA:

- Awarded 485 grants to artists and cultural organizations in New England and across the nation, totaling over \$4.7 million, to support new works for dance and theater, performing arts presenters, and public art.
- Celebrated the first anniversary of the re-launched CreativeGround.org, the go-to place to connect to New England's creative economy.
- Emphasized our cultural policy work, strengthening relationships with state arts advocacy organizations, connecting with our legislators, and endorsing values-aligned policies.
- Held the Celebration of Leadership amidst an April nor'easter in Boston, celebrating the six inaugural New England Leaders of Color fellows and fostering new connections.
- Launched a strategic planning process focusing on the next five years of NEFA's programming and services, emphasizing emerging themes of equity and social impact.

I invite you to explore NEFA's values-driven work in these pages, and I hope you'll continue to join us in pursuing our bold endeavors.

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, inclusion, & accessibility
- » Knowledge building & sharing
- » Leadership
- » Partnership
- » Public funding for the arts



NEST-supported Firstworks presents
MASARY Studios, by Erin X. Smithers



NEST-supported Wilbury Theatre Group
presents Jesse Hawley and James Stanley,
courtesy of Wilbury Theatre Group

GRANTS & PROGRAMS: INVESTING IN ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES

NEFA connects artists and cultural organizations to opportunities, local economies to artists 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 nearly 50-year history of developing partnerships and programs supporting the arts.

"...Receiving a NDP Production Grant absolutely helped me secure other funding...As a reputable funder, NEFA's support of the project suggests to other funders that Blood Baby is worthy of serious consideration and provides a significant boost of confidence for those considering the project."

Meg Foley
National Dance Project grant recipient

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 that celebrates the vital work of New England's artists, creatives, culture bearers, cultural organizations, and creative businesses and shares data with local, state, and national partners.
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- » **National Dance Project** Supporting the creation and U.S. touring of new dance projects and field-building initiatives for dance.
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- » **National Theater Project** Supporting the creation and touring of U.S. based, devised ensemble theater projects through direct funding and cultivation of an informed, interactive network of ensembles, artists, and presenters throughout the field.
-
- » **New England Grant Programs & Initiatives** Grants and convenings supporting New England organizations to present performing, film, and literary artists and connecting artists and presenters to resources and networks and, in partnership with the Regional Arts Organizations, grants supporting organizations and individuals to increase capacity and expand their practices.
-
- » **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 2024



SUPPORT ADVANCING EQUITY

Historically underserved communities frequently have reported lower arts participation rates than other groups. To address this disparity and understand the dynamics, the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with South Arts and in collaboration with the five other U.S. Regional Arts Organizations (RAOs), launched ArtsHERE, a new grant to expand access to arts participation across the nation through capacity-building projects and peer-learning to further support organizational goals. The 112 awards were announced in September 2024.

“Everyone should be able to live an artful life, and ArtsHERE is an important step in ensuring we are strengthening our nation’s arts ecosystem to make this a reality.”

Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD
Chair of the National
Endowment for the Arts.

CONNECT BUILDING NETWORKS

Launched in 2012 by the U.S. Department of State and NEFA, Center Stage leverages the power of the performing arts to transcend boundaries, encourages people to dynamically engage with cultures other than their own, and delivers lasting impacts in the U.S. and abroad. Despite residual complications to the presenting field due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 63 artists in nine music, dance, and theatre ensembles from five countries toured the U.S. from June to November 2023. They engaged in high quality artistic performances and impressive deep interactions with a range of communities, including youth, diasporic, and Indigenous, across the nation.



STRENGTHEN INVESTING IN CULTURE

“Ethiocolor put on a virtuosic evening of music and dance, but they also gave us a dose of much-needed ‘medicine,’ a word Melaku Belay used recently on a Facebook post to describe their art...In the face of the painful and harrowing experience of being human, they gave us all a lesson in the transformational and radical nature of joy.

The Independent Review Crew
Oakland, CA, on Ethiocolor,
Center Stage Season 7 ensemble

The 21st annual Idea Swap, an event for New England-based nonprofit cultural organizations and touring artists to network and share ideas for touring projects, took place in a new venue, the Nashua Center for the Arts, in Nashua, NH. The Idea Swap is the primary way for the sector in New England to network and engage in person and includes informal networking, five-minute presentations of projects available for New England-wide touring, and facilitated small groups to discuss project ideas, including those that may qualify for funding from NEFA’s programs. Pre- and post-event conversation and networking takes place on a digital platform, offering additional opportunities to build connections.

“The Idea Swap is a connective event that invites artists, presenters, and programmers to get a true sense of what is happening in the New England performing arts world. It’s a moment to put your finger on the pulse of the performing arts pipeline.”

past Idea Swap attendee

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.

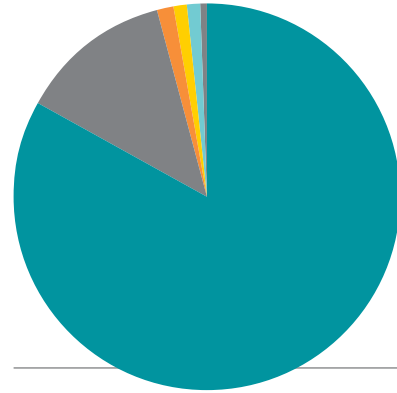
Today, NEFA's programs are regional, national, and international in scope, supporting artists and communities through grants and other resources including workshops, convenings, research, and online tools.



National Theater Project-supported *Baba Israel*
and *Grace Galu*, by Maria Baranova

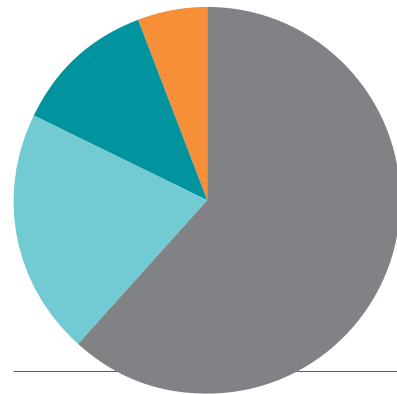
FINANCIALS

JUNE 1, 2023 – MAY 31, 2024



REVENUE

Foundations, Corporations, & other Government	83.3%
National Endowment for the Arts	12.9%
State Arts Agencies	1.2%
Individuals	1.3%
Earned income	1.1%
Interest & dividend income	0.3%



EXPENSE

Grants	61.7%
Program Services	20.6%
Administration	12.1%
Communications & Development	5.6%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	5,350,828
Contributions, grants and other receivables	13,458,795
Investments, short-term and long-term	18,312,208
Fixed assets	513,793
Other assets	123,877
Total assets	37,759,501

TOTAL ASSETS	37,759,501
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LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	144,869
Grants payable	5,928,785
Fiscal agent payable	59,809
Total liabilities	6,133,463

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	556,707
Board designated funds	16,809,905
Temporarily restricted	14,259,426
Total net assets	31,626,038

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	37,759,501
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OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	11,365,522
Service fees and other income	123,000
Interest and dividends	35,000

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	11,523,522
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EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Grants and related services	7,093,109
Program services	2,364,832
Total program expenses	9,457,941

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Administrative and general	1,393,836
Communications and development	640,116
Total administrative expenses	2,033,952

TOTAL EXPENSES	11,491,893
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NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	31,629
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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 2023 through May 2024, NEFA was generously supported by the following:



\$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

\$50,000 +

Massachusetts Cultural Council

\$25,000 +

Aliad Fund at The Boston Foundation
The Henry Luce Foundation

\$10,000 +

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts
Eastern Bank Foundation
John and Mary-Beth Henry
Maine Arts Commission
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Vermont Arts Council
Mary and Ted Wendell

\$5,000 +

Alan and Saralynn Allaire
Amy and Lee Ellsworth
Iván Espinoza-Madrigal
Erinn King
Stetson Marshall
Medzown
Sara Coffey and David Snyder

\$2,500 +

Anonymous, Vermont Community Foundation ◻
Marcie Hershman ◻
The James E. Robinson Foundation
The Michael and Janet Rogers Foundation
The Sholley Foundation

\$1,000 +

Dr. Kamesh Ramakrishna Aiyer and Ms. Geeta Bhide Aiyer
Flather Family Fund
Income Research + Management
Liana Krupp
Alyce Lee
Monica A. McCarthy
Larry Simpson
Harold Steward
Trillium Asset Management
Zevin Asset Management

\$500 +

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Marcum LLP
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Chip Newell and Susan Kohler Gray
Jane Preston and Michael Muller ◻
Pamela Tatge and Jerry Zinser ◻
Deirdre Valente, LBMI in memory of Lisa Booth ◻

KEY

- Represents full amount of multi-year grant(s)
- ◻ Includes a donation to the Rebecca Blunk Fund

\$250+

Anonymous (3)
 Samuel Blumenstiel
 Joan and Howard Brodsky
 Dr. Roger and Carol Brooks
 Michael and Kimberly
 Cayer
 Joyce Collier and
 Jenny Potter ■
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 Megan Gates
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UP TO \$249

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 Magdalena Abrego
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 Tufts Jumbo Volleyball
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GIFTS IN KIND

Asana
 Alyce Lee
 Patrick Church Studio
 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.



NEST-supported Strand Theatre presents
 Sara Juli, by Nicholas Pierce

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ADVISORY COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, & STAFF

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

Min Jung Kim

Lynne McCormack

Pamela Tatge



NEST-supported SPACE presents Boston Dance Theater,
by Jocelyn Leighton-Cory

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Regional Initiatives



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