



**The National Endowment for the Arts, an investment in America's living cultural heritage, was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency. Its mission is to serve the public good by nurturing human creativity, supporting community spirit, and fostering appreciation of the excellence and diversity of our nation's artistic accomplishments.**

## 1999: The Year in Review

**A** highlight of Fiscal Year 1999, the second year of Chairman Bill Ivey's leadership of the Arts Endowment, was the release and public dissemination of the agency's new strategic plan for the years 1999-2004. The plan was developed the preceding year by agency staff, based on the Chairman's priorities, through a process of analyzing and reshaping the NEA's vision, mission and goals. State arts agencies, regional arts organizations and arts service organizations were consulted during the plan's formulation. As required for all federal agencies by the Government Performance and Results Act, the plan includes specific program goals with measurable outcomes. Goals, objectives and measures in the broad areas of access, creativity, arts education, heritage preservation, organizational stability, community arts development and partnerships are set forth in the final plan, available on the NEA Web site at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

A grant to the Da Camera Society of Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles supported 12 Chamber Music in Historic Sites concerts and related outreach activities. Featured here is violinist Kyoko Kashiwagi of the Amernet String Quartet with students from the Utah Street Elementary School. Photo courtesy of the Da Camera Society

Based on the strategic plan, during Fiscal Year 1999 Chairman Ivey first proposed the Challenge America initiative that was included in President Clinton's budget request to Congress for future-year funding. The proposed initiative targets support to arts education, services for young people, cultural heritage, community partnerships and expanded access to the arts. The same year, Chairman Ivey traveled extensively throughout the country, giving speeches and meeting with leaders of cultural, business, education and civic groups, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, chambers of commerce and Rotary Clubs.

Total appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 1999 were \$97,966,000, down slightly from the 1998 level of \$98,000,000 due to an across-the-board rescission enacted by Congress to offset the Emergency Oil and Gas Bill. During 1999, the Endowment continued its activities in accordance with the

1998-enacted Congressional mandates: a 15 percent cap on the total amount of NEA grant funds awarded to arts organizations in any one state, excluding projects of national significance or multi-state impact; an ongoing emphasis on agency outreach through projects for underserved populations; and the distribution of 40 percent of agency grant funds to the 56 state and jurisdictional art agencies.

In Fiscal Year 1999 the Endowment awarded over 1,600 grants totaling \$82.6 million in the areas of Grants to Organizations, Grants to Individuals, Partnership Agreements and Leadership Initiatives. The ArtsREACH program, which began in Fiscal Year 1998 and served 20 states previously underrepresented in the agency's pool of direct grant recipients, again funded the



development and implementation of local cultural plans through community partnerships of arts and non-arts organizations. During its first year, the program increased the number of NEA direct grants in the targeted states by more than 350 percent.



The Folk & Traditional Arts Infrastructure Initiative, also begun in 1998, continued to serve the folk and traditional arts nationwide by funding research, documentation and preservation, professional staff support, and broad dissemination of art forms through instruction, performances and exhibitions. New in 1999 was a partnership project with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that aims to prevent juvenile crime through participation in arts programs. The Endowment also helped Americans celebrate the arrival of the new millennium by funding a wide range of National Millennium Projects, bringing new artistic works to new audiences and communities across the country.

*Points of Departure: Art on the Line* is a series of site-specific installations in historic train stations along Philadelphia's Main Line developed by the Main Line Art Center in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Pictured here is *Lounge 1999* by artist Kay Rosen at the Wynnewood Station. Photo by Gregory Benson

During 1999, the Endowment conducted a comprehensive assessment of its support for arts organizational development through Planning & Stabilization grants. The agency convened leaders from the cultural, educational, philanthropic, technological and business sectors in a series of nine colloquia held in Washington, D.C. that were open to the arts community. The series examined such issues as audience development, funding partnerships, information technology, leadership development and capitalization strategies for arts organizations.

Caroline Clay portrays a saxophone player searching for her sound in this scene from *Oo-Bla-Dee* performed by the Goodman Theater/Chicago Theater Group in Chicago. Photo by Liz Lauren

The Endowment further served the arts field and the public by expanding the resources available on its Web site. An example is *Lessons Learned: A Planning Toolsite*, an on-line collection of articles by arts professionals in the areas of audience building, capital campaigns, strategic planning, community partnerships and social enterprise.

Six seats on the 20-member National Council on the Arts again were designated by law for Congressional members serving in a non-voting, *ex officio* capacity. Other Council members were private citizens appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Council continued to advise the Chairman on policies and programs; screen nominations from the public for the National Medal of Arts; and provide a second level of grant proposal review. Panels of experts, including arts professionals and knowledgeable laypersons, provided the initial review of all grant applications.

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This publication reflects the Endowment's grantmaking structure that began in Fiscal Year 1997 and remains in effect. It presents a representative sampling of the agency's activities that took place between October 1, 1998 and September 30, 1999. The year's financial transactions and a history of NEA appropriations are included at the end. Grant applications, publications, research reports, the NEA's strategic plan and complete lists of Fiscal Year 1999 grants, cooperative agreements and inter-agency transfers are available on the Endowment's Web site at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). These items may also be obtained by written request to the NEA Office of Communications, or by calling the National Endowment for the Arts at 202-682-5400.

