



The Office of Policy Research & Analysis (OPRA) supports the Chairman and NEA staff with statistical and other information about the agency's applications and awards, including grantee and applicant profiles, the distribution of awards by state and artistic discipline, and analyses of overall trends in NEA funding. The Office's Research Division issues periodic reports on larger issues affecting artists and arts organizations that are distributed to Congress, the arts community and the public. These reports help shape changes in the Endowment's grantmaking policies.

In Fiscal Year 1999, one of OPRA's major projects was the development of a geographic database that provides a comprehensive picture of the broad reach of NEA-supported activities. The database demonstrated that over 4,000 cities and towns throughout the country benefited from NEA grants through dance company tours, symphony and opera presentations in schools, poetry readings in libraries, national distribution of works by small literary presses, traveling exhibitions of works by major visual artists, and radio and television broadcasts.

The NEA's new geographic database demonstrated that in Fiscal Year 1999, 4,000 American communities benefited from NEA grants.

As part of its activities, OPRA oversees the agency's Civil Rights Office, which reflects the Chairman's commitment to equity within the Endowment and with its grantees, applicants and the cultural community. Working with OPRA, the Civil Rights Office monitors and influences agency-wide policy and practices.

In 1999, OPRA's Research Division published the following studies:

- Note #72, an updated analysis of public arts participation across states, regions and metropolitan areas based on the Division's *1997 National Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*;
- Note #73, an analysis of artist employment based on statistics collected through the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Current Population Survey*; and
- Note #74, a summary of the latest research comparing government arts expenditures in the U. S. with spending levels in nine other countries.

OPRA also convened a symposium with researchers and representatives of arts service organizations and foundations that assessed the development of a national unified database of arts organizations.

The NEA's library, part of the Research Division, continued to collect and make available to the arts field and the public specialized information about topics in the arts.