

**Recent Appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and  
the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
(in millions of dollars)**

	FY 2019 Final	President FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House Subcmte	FY2020 House Cmte	FY 2020 Senate Subcmte	FY 2020 Senate Cmte	FY 2020 Final	President FY 2021 Request
NEA/ NEH	\$155	Termination	\$167.5	\$167.5	\$157	\$157	<b>\$162.25</b>	Termination

**January 2019**—The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress began with a new legislative agenda due to the change in leadership in the U.S. House. Appropriators began the cycle for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations process. In both FY 2018 and FY 2019, the Trump administration sought to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); however, **Congress strongly rejected that proposal on a bipartisan basis** both years, and actually increased NEA funding in both FY 2018 and FY 2019.

**February 14, 2019**—After a 35-day partial government shutdown and negotiations to finish the FY 2019 appropriations process and address border security, Congress overwhelmingly passed a bill that funds the Endowments at **\$155 million each for FY 2019**. President Trump signed the bill into law the following day.

**February 26, 2019**—The **U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee**, which oversees the funding for the NEA and many other federal cultural agencies, held a public witness hearing where Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch testified and asked the Subcommittee to **increase funding for the NEA in FY 2020 to a level of \$167.5 million**.

**May 15, 2019**—The **U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee** strongly rejected President Trump's budget request to eliminate both the NEA and the NEH by appropriating **\$167.5 million** in funding for FY 2020.

**June 25, 2019**—The full **U.S. House** voted to increase FY 2020 funding for the NEA and the NEH to a level of **\$167.5 million**.

**September 24, 2019**—The **U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee** recommended a \$2 million increase in funding for the NEA and the NEH for FY 2020 at a level of **\$157 million**. This number was \$10.5 million *less* than the U.S. House-approved level of \$167.5 million.

**December 17, 2019**—The **U.S. Congress** avoided a government shutdown and reached an agreement on all 12 FY 2020 spending bills, including funding for the NEA and NEH at **\$162.25 million**. This was the largest increase in six years for the Endowments.

**February 10, 2020**—President Trump released his fiscal FY 2021 budget request and again sought to eliminate America's cultural agencies.