

The County of Santa Barbara, in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, proudly supports the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). These essential organizations have catalyzed major projects and programs which have been fully adopted and now run autonomously. The County Arts Commission itself was founded with NEA monies. In the 2016 fiscal year, the NEA awarded \$8.6 million in direct grants to California organizations.

The impact of the NEA is essential and wide-reaching. Each \$1 in NEA grant funds leverages another \$9 from public and private sectors. Yet, the NEA's \$148 million budget just represents less than 1/2 of one hundredth of one percent of the federal budget. NEA grants support a wide variety of projects and programs that benefit our County. Recipients include Opera Santa Barbara, Pacific Coast Performing Arts, the Botanic Garden, Music Academy of the West, Lobero Theatre, La Casa de la Raza Cultural Center, University of California- Santa Barbara's Arts & Lectures Series, the Museum of Art and more.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis, arts and cultural industries contribute \$704.2 billion to the nation's GDP. Arts and cultural commodities are yielding a trade surplus of \$24 billion. Our vibrant sector generates 4.7 million jobs, with more than 2.2 million people in the U.S. who are employed as artists. California especially is dependent on its creative economy, which yielded \$293.8 billion in the 2014 fiscal year. The NEA catalyzes a remarkable return on investment, especially considering the size of the arts and culture sector it supports.

The IMLS has: funded projects to preserve American culture and historical collections for future generations; made education and materials universally accessible through digitization; and created programs for students on the Central Coast and across the nation. County recipients of IMLS funding include the Botanic Garden, Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, UCSB, Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, Maritime Museum, Natural History Museum, Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum, Westmont Museum of Art and the Maximus Gallery. Local beneficiaries also include the many libraries in the County; IMLS funding helps them to make learning accessible to all segments of our society and provide essential educational programs.

Since its creation in 1965, the NEH has awarded over \$5.3 billion to organizations through more than 63,000 grants—most of which require matching local investment. This had resulted in the creation of books, films, museum exhibits and more. NEH-supported research has resulted in 18 Pulitzer Prizes, 20 Bancroft Prizes and numerous awards for documentary films. In 2016 alone, state-affiliated humanities councils put on over 55,000 programs and conferences reaching every corner of the country. Local NEH grant recipients include the Museum of Art, University of California- Santa Barbara, Trust for Historic Preservation, the South Coast Railroad Museum, Museum of Natural History and others.

All three of these federal agencies leverage their budgets to benefit local communities across the county—creating and supporting jobs, educating youth, preserving community heritage and much more. In Santa Barbara County, multiple organizations have been and continue to be the beneficiaries of these grants and organizations, which make a lasting impact in our communities.

The proposed elimination of the NEA, NEH and IMLS would pose an immediate threat to the local economy. Per a 2016 Americans for the Arts Study, Santa Barbara ranks 9th out of 367 municipalities studied across the country in Artists per Capita and 1 in 10 jobs in California contributes to the Creative Economy, which generated \$293.8 billion in 2014. We ask that you help support the economic and cultural health of Santa Barbara County and its residents by supporting these essential organizations.