

NEWS

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ArtistYear to Receive \$150,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts as part of the American Rescue Plan

PHILADELPHIA (February 11, 2022) —ArtistYear is pleased to announce they have been approved to receive an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. ArtistYear is recommended to receive \$150,000 and may use this funding to increase full-time teaching artist fellow positions at high-poverty schools across our nation via a national service arts corps. In total, the NEA will award grants totaling \$57,750,000 to 567 arts organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC.

“Our nation’s arts sector has been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Endowment for the Arts’ American Rescue Plan funding will help arts organizations, such as ArtistYear, rebuild and reopen,” said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the NEA. “The arts are crucial in helping America’s communities heal, unite, and inspire, as well as essential to our nation’s economic recovery.”

“We are honored to receive this generous support from the NEA at this critical time as we seek to address even greater inequities in arts education via a national service arts corps,” shared Margo Drakos, founder and Board Chair of ArtistYear. “This funding will support our work to ensure that every low-income student in our nation has the opportunity to reap the socio-emotional and academic benefits associated with arts learning.”

The American Rescue Plan Grant will enable ArtistYear to recover from the pandemic, expand rural and urban service, and train, support, and place **218 ArtistYear AmeriCorps Fellows** as full-time teaching artists in nearly **200 Title I schools** across Denver, NYC, Philadelphia, and rural Colorado and North Carolina. The Fellows will collectively deliver **370,600 hours** of arts learning to **52,500 K-12** unduplicated, low-income students each school week. Fellows will be prepared to expand, enhance, and sustain arts in their school while improving student engagement and strengthening the school culture.

During the 2020-2021 pandemic learning year, ArtistYear pivoted as schools closed: 64 teaching artist Fellows brought arts learning out of classrooms and into homes everywhere. **100%** of its school partners said that ArtistYear both improved school climate and culture and improved student engagement with school. Collectively, the Fellows served 13,744 students weekly via hybrid learning and led 343 virtual arts workshops across six school districts. ArtistYear partnered with the School District of Philadelphia’s education channel PSTV, local libraries, local Boys and Girls Clubs, and [launched ArtistYear Create with YouTube Kids!](#) to democratize access to arts learning via synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning. Fellows produced 142 arts-learning videos with nearly **25,000 K-5th graders viewing daily**.



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The American Rescue Plan was signed into law in March 2021 when the NEA was provided \$135 million for the arts sector. The funding for organizations is the third installment providing more

than \$57.7 million for arts organizations. In April 2021, the NEA [announced](#) \$52 million (40 percent) in ARP funding would be allocated to 62 state, jurisdictional, and regional arts organizations for regranting through their respective programs. The second installment in November 2021 [allocated](#) \$20.2 million to 66 local arts agencies for subgranting to local artists and art organizations.

For more information on the NEA's American Rescue Plan grants, including the full list of arts organizations funded in this announcement, visit www.arts.gov/COVID-19/the-american-rescue-plan.

About ArtistYear

ArtistYear is dedicated to addressing inequities in arts education for K-12 students via a national service arts corps. Established as a 501(c)3 in 2016, ArtistYear is proud to be the first national and state AmeriCorps program for artists to dedicate a year of service to our nation. To learn more about ArtistYear, visit www.artistyear.org.

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