



Talking Points
Governor's Proposed FY20-21 Budget
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
(Division of the Arts, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources)

Governor Sununu's proposed FY20-21 budget includes a **\$282,000 increase** in the appropriation for the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#) (NHSCA) General Fund Arts Development Grants, bringing the total investment to **\$505,000**. This increase would raise New Hampshire's per capita arts investment from 42nd in the country to 31st.*

NHSCA grants have a tremendous impact on New Hampshire's communities, economy, education and workforce development, and health. Because the arts create new opportunities for the State to achieve its goals and overcome its challenges, this increase will enable NHSCA to respond to important issues, including economic and community development, workforce retention and growth, and the behavioral health/opioid crisis.

If approved, these additional grant funds will:

- Enhance funding in the General Projects grant category to support projects on creative placemaking and arts-focused community planning, providing employment for creative workers, generating interest in community spaces, and stimulating business activity.

- Create a new grant program to help creative workers access entrepreneurial training and opportunities to grow their small businesses. The Arts Council's [Strategic Planning process](#) and public meetings identify a need for business career training for this sector of our economy.
- Offer grants to K-12 schools for artist-in-schools programs specializing in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) projects. Creativity is essential to training in scientific and technological fields and an absolute necessity for a competent 21st century workforce.
- Support behavioral health and opioid-specific grants, partnerships and projects in healthcare facilities and communities, integrating the arts into prevention, treatment and recovery programs, including those serving youth, veterans, seniors and the incarcerated. [Research](#) tells us that the arts contribute to positive results when included in medical treatment and community prevention and wellness programs. Grant outreach would also provide job opportunities to benefit the overall economy.

*per capita data from the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)