



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

On April 11, the New Hampshire House of Representatives approved a **\$282,000 increase** to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' General Fund State Arts Development Grants appropriation, bringing the total to \$505,000 for FY20-21.

Grantmaking is NHSCA's most public activity. The agency distributes state and federal funds to arts and cultural organizations, nonprofit organizations, communities, schools, healthcare facilities and creative workers to increase access to the arts, enhance education, promote health and healing, and strengthen the economy and our communities. The agency's modest grantmaking, approximately \$550,000 a year, has a \$40 million impact in New Hampshire – an excellent return on investment!

Because the arts create new pathways for the state to achieve its highest goals and overcome its greatest challenges, this **126% increase** will enable NHSCA to more fully respond to current state priorities. The funding increase will allow the Arts Council to make additional grants in all areas of its work, with specific focus on:

- **Strengthening the economy**, through a new grant program which will provide small grants to creative workers for opportunities to benefit their careers
- **Strengthening our communities**, through grants for creative placemaking activities
- **Enhancing education**, through grants for artist residencies in schools that focus on STEAM
- **Promoting health and healing**, through the Arts in Health program, with special emphasis on behavioral health and opioid addiction

This increase shows a commitment by legislative leaders to a key part of the state's economy and way of life. In addition, this increase would raise New Hampshire's state arts investment ranking from 42<sup>nd</sup> in the country to 31<sup>st</sup> ([National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)).