

Terry Schefcik NAC BOARD CHAIR

welcome

On behalf of the Nevada Arts Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 17th annual Nevada Poetry Out Loud Competition State Finals. Thank you for joining us in celebration of our four finalists. This is truly an exciting time in their lives!

Poetry Out Loud celebrates the human condition through the power of the spoken word. These young people are mastering the skill of speaking in public, and we as listeners are reaping an appreciation of their hard work as they move poetry from the printed page to the *virtual* stage. Their medium is words. Their tool is public speaking tempered by self-confidence. Their message is a portrayal of who we are. The words they speak can be powerful, sincere, poignant, emotion-laden, painful, inspiring, nostalgic, beautiful and much, much more, all of which are descriptors of the human condition.

We recognize that the students competing today are not alone in their efforts. It is through the continued encouragement of supportive families, dedicated teachers, participating schools, and our statewide team of coordinators who assist in the regional competitions that they have arrived at this stage. This is how Nevada is able to produce farreaching programs like Poetry Out Loud.

The Nevada Arts Council is proud that Poetry Out Loud has become an integral element of arts learning for Nevada's youth. On behalf of the Nevada Arts Council Board, we express our sincere gratitude to the many individuals, organizations and partners that made this event possible: the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, and the Nevada Department of Education. It is because of their understanding of the impact of strong and meaningful arts education projects, as well as their significant contributions and collaborations, that help to make this program the success that it is.

I also thank Nevada Arts Council Executive Director, Tony Manfredi, Arts Learning Specialist Maryjane Dorofachuk, the agency's dedicated staff, as well as my fellow Board members for their combined commitment and belief that lifelong learning in the arts benefits all Nevadans.

To each finalist, I speak on behalf of the Nevada Arts Council Board and staff when I offer an enthusiastic *congratulations*! We realize the dedication and persistence it took to get you where you are in the face of the unprecedented challenges we are dealing with today. All of us at the Nevada Arts Council acknowledge and thank you, your families and your teachers for the inspiration and hope of a brighter future you share with us today.

Thank you.

Terry Schefcik

nevada arts council

In partnership with

Nevada Department of Education
Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
National Endowment for the Arts
Poetry Foundation

Proudly presents

nevada poetry out loud state finals

VIRTUAL COMPETITION AND PRESENTATION

March 8, 2022, 5 pm

Featuring the 2022 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Finalists:

Grace Hwang, Clark County Aubree Doll, Lyon County Anastasia Chevalier, Storey County Eakjot Sekhon, Washoe County

2022 NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD PROGRAM

The literary arts have always been a figure in the western landscape, so it is no surprise that the Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program continues to generate enthusiasm and excitement.

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted the competition virtually, as we did the past two years. Students submitted their recitations virtually. The judges judged the poems virtually and we had our state champion revealed on March 8. Although our participation numbers are not the same as in years past, dedicated students and teachers moved the program forward resulting in the presentation of poems by four state semifinalists. It's been another year of uncertainty and because of that we are grateful for all the students and teachers that found the time and desire to turn to poetry and make it a part of their lives.

A POEM IS A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Poetry Out Loud is a distinctive arts education initiative that begins in communities throughout the state. High school-aged students in public, private, charter and home schools master public-speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage through the memorization and recitation of classic and contemporary poetry.

By making the words of great poets literally come to life, semi-finalists advance from school and district competitions to compete at the Nevada State Finals where the stakes are high. The Nevada POL State Champion will compete for \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends at the National Finals.

2022 POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL FINALS

The 2022 POL National Finals will be held virtually in lieu of holding them on-site in Washington D.C. as previously planned. The 2022 POL National Semifinals will take place on Sunday, May 1st and the 2022 POL National Finals will take place on Sunday, June 5th. Both will be video submission-based competitions and will be streamed on arts.gov.

nevada poetry outload

CELEBRATING ITS 17TH YEAR

We have not wings, we cannot soar; But we have feet to scale and climb By slow degrees, by more and more, The cloudy summits of our time.

FROM THE LADDER OF ST AUGUSTINE BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW



"Poetry Out Loud has been a journey that I am so glad was a part of my high school experience. I am grateful to be considered a part of the arts community and I hope more young people continue to be involved in the future. Poetry Out Loud is something I will never forget and will always hold close to my heart."

Eatjot Faur Sethon

2022 NEVADA POL STATE CHAMPION

poems +
poets

For the Nevada State Finals, each student is required to prepare three poems for recitations that have been selected from an anthology prepared by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. The poems are listed below in the order in which they will recite them. One poem must be 25 lines or shorter and one must be written before the 20th century. The same poem may be used to meet both criteria.

The American Soldier by Philip Freneau
The Light of Stars by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

Lyon ← Aubree Doll

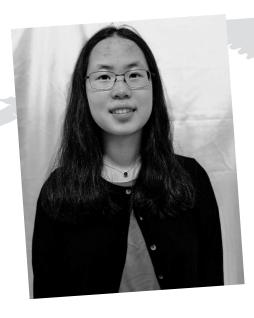
Carnival by Rebecca Lindenberg
The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
At Noon by Reginald Gibbons

The Coming of the Plague by Weldon Kees
Full Moon by Elinor Wylie
To Helen by Edgar Allen Poe

Washoe **Eakjot Sekhon**

If They Should Come For Us by Fatimah Asghar "Where did the handsome beloved go?" by Jalal al-Din Rumi
To have without holding by Marge Piercy

finalists



CLARK COUNTY

grace hwang

Junior

Ed W. Clark High School Kerry Larnerd, Principal

Grace Hwang is a junior in the AMSAT program at Clark High School and an editor of the school newspaper. She has been reciting poetry since she was very little and takes great pleasure in exploring the nuanced meaning of each poem. She is also a creative writer with a passion for world-building and gained inspiration from attending the Summer Creative Writing Intensive at the Idyllwild Arts Academy. In addition, Grace is a Command Performance flutist in the Nevada All-State Band and a classical pianist. She also enjoys reading novels, especially the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. She should like to thank her teachers, Robin Brown, Carrie Teller and Ashley Nebe, her brother, Samuel Hwang, her father, Andrew Hwang and her mother, Margaret Hwang.



LYON COUNTY

aubree doll

Freshman

Yerington High School DeSoto Dickson, Principal

Aubree Doll is a freshman at Yerington High School. She is currently in Yerington High School's band and has participated in choir in the past. She is an English honor student and enjoys writing stories. Aubree was thrilled to be able to get the chance to participate in Poetry Out Loud. She grew up with poetry and feels it's a part of her childhood. Aubree plays the piano, and it is one of her many roles as a percussionist in her high school band. Her dream is to be an animator in order to get her name out there. She loves drawing, painting, and music. She is thankful for Amanda Aldridge, her English teacher, her mother Dana Fenili-Doll, her father Thomas Doll, her advisory teacher, Royce Aldridge and a special thank you to her grandmother, Suzan Doll, for being a poet and getting her started on this adventurous path.



STOREY COUNTY

anastasia chevalier

Senior

Virginia City High School Shawn-Marie Lumos, Principal

Anastasia Chevalier is transforming the way women are leaders. Anastasia strives for academic excellence as a member of the Honor Society at both her high school and community college. With a proven track record in physical fitness, Anastasia is a Second-Degree Black Belt in Jeet Kune Do, a first degree in Taekwondo, and practices Jujitsu Kickboxing. She is a youth mentor, building confidence and eliminating bullying. Anastasia is in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp as Petty Officer First Class, and she is earning her biliteracy seal in Russian. Anastasia thanks her parents, Kevin and Ambre Chevalier, her English Professor, Mr. Karl Watts, and her friends for ceaselessly listening to her recite her poems.





WASHOE COUNTY

jot sethon

Robert McQueen High School Amy Marable, Principal

This is Eakjot Sekhon's third year participating in Poetry Out Loud. For her, it is bittersweet for this is the last time she can participate due to being a senior in high school. Poetry Out Loud has transformed her from the shy, doubtful girl in the front of the class to the confident and poised person she is today. A few things about Eakjot are that she loves to watch movies, play lacrosse for her high school, reading in her free time and tries to learn something new every moment she can get. She thanks the arts community and is grateful for this experience.

judges

binnie lale wilkin

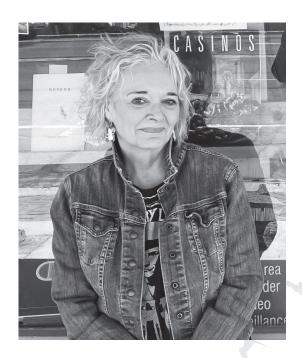
Bonnie Tate Wilken is a Professional Storyteller and has resided in Las Vegas, Nevada for seventeen years. Throughout her career, storytelling was her forte. Currently, she is exploring poetry writing while participating in the local *Poetry Promise* group. One of her poems was selected for the UNLV Donna Beam Gallery's virtual JUSTICE exhibit. As a Children's Specialist for the Los Angeles City library, Ms. Wilkin was applauded for creative use of movement and dance with stories. She taught storytelling in library schools at major universities including Columbia University and the University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley. In October 2019, Wilkin was installed in the California Library Association's California Library Hall of Fame. She was the official storyteller for the Neon Museum's "My Las Vegas" program reaching 5000 students throughout the Las Vegas Valley. In the same year, her article, In the Land of Neen appeared in Humanities Heart to Heart published online by Nevada Humanities. The National Storytelling Network honored Wilkin with an Oracle Award for Regional Excellence in Storytelling in 2021 and in June she presented a virtual JUNETEENTH program for the Los Angeles County Library, fulfilling a standing invitation existing more than twenty years. Her program consisted of all original stories and poetry. Wilkin's professional publications are with Roman and Littlefield/Scarecrow Press.

joanne Mallari

Joanne Mallari is a Reno-based, Filipino-American poet. When she started writing poems in sixth grade, her language arts teacher connected her with a program called the Southern Nevada Writing Project. Each participant was featured in a print anthology, and when she saw her work in the table of contents, she embraced writing as her voice to the world. Today, Joanne brings her love of language to the classroom. She has served as a teaching artist for Teen Empowerment, a program sponsored by Sierra Arts Foundation. In 2020, she joined the English department faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she teaches courses in firstyear composition and creative writing. Her debut chapbook, Daughter Tongue, was published by Kelsay Books. As a teacher and an artist, Joanne believes in creating space for the parts of ourselves and our history that have been denied, lost, hidden, or forgotten.

josh webster

Josh Webster is a professor, fiction writer and playwright currently living in Pahrump, NV. He grew up in Jackson, MI and received an M.A. in English with an emphasis in creative writing from Wayne State University and a PhD in English with an emphasis in creative writing from The Center for Writers at The University of Southern Mississippi. After serving as a lecturer at North Dakota State University in Fargo (yes, the wood chipper is in the visitor center), he has since worked as an English Professor at Great Basin College in first Elko and then Pahrump where he teaches composition, creative writing, literature and film courses. When he isn't teaching or writing, Josh reads and collects far too many comics, listens to and collects too many records and plays and collects too many board games. His current goal is to watch all the films in The Criterion Collection and if he could be any animal, he would choose red panda.



gailmarie pahmeier

Nevada State Poet Laureate

The poet Billy Collins has written that "poetry tells the story of the human heart," so it is essentially the language of human experience. We come to poetry so that we can inhabit our own lives more fully and more fully inhabit the larger world in which we live those lives. Committing a poem to memory is an act of agency and engagement; when someone memorizes a poem, they make it part of their very marrow, they make it wholly their own. What I find most exciting about the Poetry Out Loud program of the Nevada Arts Council is that we in the audience are blessed with the presence of outstanding Nevada students, and those students make poetry as vital as air when they recite work that matters to them.

driving the gone dog across nevada

By Gailmarie Pahmeier

Everyone who's ever loved a dog knows you get one great dog. The rest are good dogs. We have good dogs now, a quick-witted pit and a silly-sweet Jack and Labrador mix. But the great dog is dead. For seven years his bone bits and ash filled an old paint can atop the washing machine. Where would he rest?

Our simple plan—the old truck and a secondhand trailer, the dog in his can snug behind the seat. We'd leave pinches of him at nearly every stop, know where to find him if we needed to, know that we'd left him to guard whatever needed guarding—wild horses, turkeys, owls, deer, the young woman alone, the old man with the veteran's pass, the family on the way to somewhere new, somewhere better, somewhere with work.

I know what you're thinking, that everyone who's ever loved a dog has a story, a wholly sentimental one that may likely include a road trip, grilled meats, a car, a truck, a camper, some stars, a moon. And you'd be right—what we love most remains communal, as common as a kiss.

SOURCE: OF BONE, OF ASH, OF ORDINARY SAINTS: A NEVADA GOSPEL (WSC PRESS, 2020).



acknowledgments

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the school and district levels, and many thanks to their parents, families and friends. We are indebted to the enthusiastic support of and participation by the teachers, coaches, principals, and superintendents involved with Nevada's 2022 Poetry Out Loud Competition. We know that the list below may be missing others, and we thank you as well.

participating districts

CLARK COUNTY

Coordinator: Maryjane Dorofachuk & Alexis Parsha, Nevada Arts Council

Teachers and Schools: Ana
Urena (Advanced Technologies
Academy), Daren Stewart
(East Career and Technical
Academy), Dana Perich (Explore
Knowledge Academy), Carrie
Teller (Ed W Clark High School),
Kelley Sultan (Del Sol Academy
of the Performing Arts)

ELKO COUNTY

Coordinator: Meggan Voth, Elko High School

Teachers and Schools: Meggan Voth (Elko High School), Jeanine Hoskins (Elko High School), Maren Miller (Elko High School)

LYON COUNTY

Coordinator: Amanda Aldridge, Yerington High School Teacher and School: Amanda Aldridge (Yerington High School), Gary Stone (Dayton High School), Jamie Scherer (Dayton High School)

STOREY COUNTY

Coordinator: Karl Watts, Virginia

City High School

Teacher and School: Karl Watts (Virginia City High School)

WASHOE COUNTY

Coordinator: Alana Berglund, Holland Project

Teachers and Schools: Wesley Lydon (Coral Academy of Science), Michelle Wait (Davidson Academy), Julianne Dillard (Reed High School), Pat Condon (Wooster High School), Kaitlyn Cooper (McQueen High School), Aimee Kelly (McQueen High School), Jillian Merson (McQueen High School), Gabe Kennedy (McQueen High School), Tobey Hilliard (McQueen High School), Ryan Clark (McQueen High School), Alicia Mustard (McQueen High School), Lindsey Lavely (McQueen High School), Kira Temple (McQueen High School), John Sloyan (Sage Ridge School)

SUPERINTENDENTS

Jhone Ebert, State of Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction

Richard Stokes, Carson City School District

Dr. Summer Stephens, Churchill County School District

Dr. Jesus Jara, Clark County School District

Keith Lewis, Douglas County School District

Clayton Anderson, Elko County School District (interim)

James D. Fossett, Esmeralda County School District

Tate Else, Eureka County School District

Dr. Dave Jensen, Humboldt County School District

Russ Klein, Lander County School District

Pam Teel, Lincoln County School District

Wayne Workman, Lyon County School District

Andre' L. Ponder, Mineral County School District

Dr. Warren Shillingburg, Nye County School District

Russell Fecht, Pershing County School District

Todd Hess, Storey County School District

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Washoe County School District

Adam Young, White Pine County School District



Without the passion, support and dedication of so many individuals, organizations and donors, the 2022 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program would not have been possible. To all those noted below, and others that we may have missed – **THANK YOU!**

special Thanks

National Endowment for the Arts

Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, Chair; Michael Orlove, Director of State, Regional & Local Partnerships and International Activities; Lara Holman Garritano, State and Regional Specialist; Ayanna N. Hudson, Arts Education Director; Nancy Daugherty, Arts Education Specialist; Lauren Miller, POL Program Manager; and Liz Auclair, Media Contact

Poetry Foundation

Ydalmi Noriega, Vice President of Programs and Community Engagement; Justine Haka, Program Manager.

Nevada Department of Education

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Education

Nevada State Poet Laureate

Gailmarie Pahmeier

Nick Higman Photography

Diane Bush & Associates

Kunder Design Studio

Joe Winter Pottery

State of Nevada

Steve Sisolak, Governor

Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Brenda Scolari, Director

Nevada Poetry Out Loud Team

Maryjane Dorofachuk, State Coordinator Alexis Parsha, POL Assistant Tony Manfredi, Executive Director

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celebrating 17 years of nevada poetry out loud

2021

1st Place — Eakjot Sekhon Robert McQueen High School/Washoe County

2nd Place — Anastasia Chevalier Virginia City High School/Storey County **3rd Place** — Allyson Adamsen Doral Academy Red Rock/Clark County

2020

1st Place — Eakjot Sekhon Robert McQueen High School/Washoe County

2nd Place — Anastasia Chevalier Virginia City High School/Storey County

3rd Place — Lara Cassity Douglas High School/Douglas County

2019

1st Place — Vanessa Aponte Legacy High School/Clark County 2nd Place — Noemi Valdez Sparks High School/Washoe County 3rd Place — Mikayla De Guzman Elko High School/Elko County

2018

1st Place — Grey Hunt Yerington High School/Lyon County 2nd Place — Mikayla De Guzman Elko High School/Elko County 3rd Place — Sandra Luevano East Career Technical Academy/ Clark County

2017

1st Place — Grey Hunt
Yerington High School/Lyon County
2nd Place — Cache Black
Elko High School/Elko County
3rd Place — Lea Gifford
Douglas County High School/
Douglas County

2016

1st Place — Mikayla Bates Elko High School/Elko County 2nd Place — Grey Hunt Yerington High School/Lyon County 3rd Place — Vanessa Blackwell Douglas County High School/ Douglas County

2015

Douglas County High School/
Douglas County

2nd Place — Dylan Baker
College of Southern Nevada/
Clark County

3rd Place — Whitney Reyes

1st Place — Dominique Groffman

3rd Place — Whitney Reyes Wooster High School/Washoe County

2014

1st Place — Christian Schunke Yerington High School/Lyon County 2nd Place — Princess Jackson Green Valley High School/Clark County 3rd Place — Mikayla Bates Elko High School/Elko County

2013

1st Place — Graciela Maya-Joseph Owyhee High School/Elko County 2nd Place — Jennifer Simon Pahrump Valley High School/Nye County 3rd Place — Ralston Pedersen Yerington High School/Lyon County

2012

1st Place — Mandy Titolo
College of Southern Nevada/
Clark County
2nd Place — Graciela Maya-Joseph
Owyhee High School/Elko County
3rd Place — Jennifer Simon
Pahrump Valley High School/
Nye County

2011

1st Place — Emily Orellana
Rainshadow Community Charter High
School/ Washoe County
2nd Place — Sarah Jamieson
Churchill High School/ Churchill County
3rd Place — Dani Cabot
College of Southern Nevada/
Clark County

2010

1st Place — Emily Orellana Rainshadow Community Charter High School/Washoe County 2nd Place — Stephanie Kulla Carson City High School/Carson City 3rd Place — Erika Marchesini Pershing County High School/ Pershing County

2009

1st Place — Emily Orellana
Rainshadow Community Charter High
School/Washoe County
2nd Place — Jaitee Pitts
Pahrump Valley High School/Nye County
3rd Place — Stephanie Kulla
Carson City High School/Carson City

2008

1st Place — Lainey Henderson Carson City High School/Carson City 2nd Place — Talton Gay Independence High School/Elko County 3rd Place — Heather Gibeson Pahrump Valley High School/Nye County

2007

1st Place — Jake Reid
Douglas County High School/
Douglas County
2nd Place — Lainey Henderson
Carson City High School/Carson City
3rd Place — Geoffrey McFarland
Galena High School/Washoe County

2006

1st Place — Gibran Baydoun Green Valley High School/Clark County 2nd Place — Jacob Behymer-Smith Coral Academy/Washoe County 3rd Place — Alicia Freeman Carson City High School/Carson City

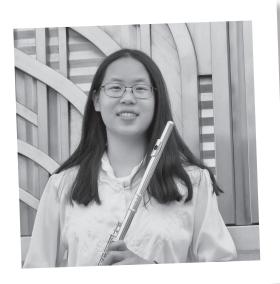


2022 nevada poetry out loud state final competition

MARCH 8, 2022

State Champion

SENIOR | Robert McQueen High School





2nd Place

Anastasia Chevalier

SENIOR | Virginia City High School

3rd Place

Grace Hwang

JUNIOR | Ed. W. Clark High School



Support Arts Education

Drive your message home with an Arts License Plate!

Your purchase of a "Rich in Art" license plate supports programs in the literary, visual and performing arts for thousands of Nevada children and their families statewide—provided by the Nevada Arts Council, a state agency and Arts for All Nevada, a non-profit organization.



\$15 of the initial fee and \$10 of each renewal means more children expressing themselves positively through the arts!

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QUESTIONS?

Nevada Arts Council: nvartscouncil.org 775.687.6680 | 702.486.3738 Arts for All Nevada: artsforallnevada.org | 775.826.6100

ARTS LEARNING

building a community for arts education

Arts and creativity strengthen education. They set young people up for success, close the achievement gap and improve test scores. Arts and creativity spark human potential, promoting cognitive development and readiness to learn at every age, they develop an innovative, globally competitive workforce by adding the key ingredient of creativity to STEAM education, and art therapies help to forestall Alzheimer's and promote lifelong brain health.

The Arts Learning Program from the Nevada Arts Council provides funding, resources, and programs; and engages in statewide initiatives to promote learning in, through and about the arts.

75%

believe the arts help students perform better academically 92%

believe it is important for K-12 students to receive education in the arts 62%

believe that the arts are part of a well-rounded education

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

strengthening the lives of all Nevadans

PUBLIC PURPOSE

Celebrating 55 years of service, the Nevada Arts
Council was established as a state agency in 1967
to strengthen the creative life of the state through
leadership, financial, and program support
that creates opportunities for artists and arts
organizations. The Nevada Arts Council ensures that
every Nevada community receives the cultural, civic,
economic, and educational benefits of the arts.

Arts and Creativity are the backbone of innovation and prosperity. They create thriving people and places throughout Nevada. They are an economic and tourism driver. They improve health outcomes around anxiety, depression, and addiction. They enhance success in our student's educational performance by closing the achievement gap through the key ingredient of STEAM.

The Nevada Arts Council is one of America's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies serving Nevada's metropolitan and rural communities, enlivening its public spaces, sparking economic growth, promoting health and healing, driving educational success, and fostering inclusion, equity and accessibility.

The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, receives funding from the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other private sources.



NEVADANS BELIEVE THE ARTS PROVIDE MEANING TO THEIR LIVES AND MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES BETTER PLACES TO LIVE.

75%

believe the arts help students perform better academically.

70%

believe that creativity enhances success in the workplace.

62%

believe that the arts improve healing and the healthcare experience.

Source: Americans Speak Out About The Arts in 2018 Ipsos Public Affairs Survey on behalf of Americans for the Arts



nvartscouncil.org















nevada arts council

Established as a state agency in 1967, the Nevada Arts Council is charged with ensuring that state and national funds support cultural activity and encourage participation in the arts throughout Nevada. In addition to providing hundreds of grants to arts and community-based organizations, schools, artists and local municipalities throughout the state, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) designs and coordinates a variety of statewide programs and activities such as traveling exhibits, artist residencies, workshops and cultural assessments to serve the state's rural and urban communities. A division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, NAC is funded by the Nevada State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and other private sources.

national endowment for the arts

Congress established the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

The poetry foundation

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry Magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. Established in 2003, The Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry.



nvartscouncil.org