

1994

## Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Speech 12

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**SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS**

- o A priority of the National Endowment for the Arts is the expansion of diversity in its programming, both cultural and geographic. Outreach efforts in minority communities have been expanded and special emphasis placed on protecting the arts and artifacts of distinct American ethnic groups nationwide.
- In FY 93, the Arts Endowment awarded 543 grants totalling \$10.9 million to minority-controlled or minority-run organizations out of a total discretionary program budget of \$108 million. These awards were made in 35 states and 87 cities, including the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. As a percentage of discretionary program funds, this represented an increase over the previous fiscal year.
- o State arts agencies, which receive an earmarked allocation from the National Endowment for the Arts each year, also award grants to minority organizations and others for the specific purpose of directly benefitting distinct cultural communities.
- o Within each of 7 major grant categories at the Arts Endowment (which account for about 32 percent of the total discretionary budget), special emphasis is on increasing minority participation. And in each of these categories -- which include professional dance companies, expansion arts organizations, media arts organizations, opera-musical theater professional companies, presenting organizations, and visual arts organizations -- minority applicants have a higher rate of success in obtaining grants than other applicants.
  - In FY 1993, the success rate for minority applicants in these categories reached 85 percent, as compared to 64 percent for all applicants.
  - Minority-run applicants represented 25 percent of the applicants, but 34 percent of the grantees.
  - The Arts Endowment increased the budget for these seven categories by nearly \$2 million from FY 1993 to FY 1994 in recognition of their benefit to minority applicants.
- o The Expansion Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts was established in 1972 specifically to support arts programs in ethnically distinct communities -- inner cities, rural hamlets, and Native American lands. Expansion Arts

funds are provided to create, exhibit, or present artistic work that reflects the culture of a community, to provide a community with access to all types of quality art, and to help train talented persons who aspire to be professional artists.

-- In FY 1993, 86 percent of the Expansion Arts Program grants -- 292 of them, averaging approximately \$17,000 each -- were awarded to minority-controlled institutions.

- o In addition to funding support provided directly to minority-controlled or minority-run organizations, the Arts Endowment awards grants to organizations that perform specific outreach or programming in minority communities. When these grants are added to the total awarded to minority-controlled organizations, NEA funding for minority support reaches 20 percent.