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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

1800 G STREET NW., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



National Endowment for the Arts
National Council on the Arts

Review of the Scope and Exposure
of Initial Programs
of the
National Council on the Arts
September 29, 1966

Since President Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law September 29, 1965, the National Council on the Arts has created new opportunities for artists, launched innovative projects in the arts, expanded and developed audiences, and assisted existing organizations to broaden arts programs. As a result of these efforts during its first year of operation:

- 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam have received funds to survey their cultural resources and develop programs, facilities and services at the community level. Of the 54 official state arts agencies participating in the grant-in-aid program, only six existed prior to 1960.
- 132,000 elementary and secondary public school children in Providence and New Orleans will have the opportunity to attend performances by outstanding theatre companies staged in these cities.
- 4,000 young people in the New York public schools heard young poets read and discuss their own works under a pilot program which is currently being expanded in New York and extended to Detroit and Pittsburgh.
- 50 novelists, poets, painters, sculptors and composers teaching in institutions of higher learning have received one-year sabbatical leave grants to pursue creative work in the arts.
- 78 promising young students in the arts who graduated from college in June 1966 received grants to visit art centers, museums, institutions, cities or areas of the United States in order to broaden their cultural experience.

- 14 novelists, poets and journalists received grants to conduct research or complete works in progress; 8 women writers associated with the Radcliffe Institute for Independent Study received additional fellowship funds to continue works in progress.
- 250,000 people are expected to visit a collection of historical and contemporary costumes during a special two-month exhibit made possible by a grant to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.
- People in 17 cities with a total population of 14.9 million will have the opportunity to attend performances by 15 resident professional and repertory theatres which have received grants to further develop the artistic quality of their companies.
- People in 50 cities with a total population of 13.7 million will have the opportunity to view performances by the American Ballet Theatre during a 1966-67 nationwide tour for which the company received a matching grant.
- People in 32 cities with a total population of 16.7 million will have the opportunity to see the Martha Graham Dance Company in the fall of 1966 when, with the assistance of a matching grant, it makes its first national tour in 15 years.
- Students in 19 cities with a school population of 2.9 million will have the opportunity to hear the Metropolitan Opera National Company which is expanding its 1966-67 tour to include performances for students and labor groups under a matching grant.
- People in 19 cities with a total population of 12.7 million will have the opportunity to attend performances by the National Repertory Theatre which has received a matching grant to expand its audience subscription program and to broaden its student educational program.
- 450 writers and 800 musicians from foreign countries attended the first international conferences held in the United States sponsored by American P.E.N. (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists and Novelists) and the National Music Camp at Interlochen with the assistance of matching grants.
- The Council was able to act immediately upon requests for emergency matching grants permitting continued operation of the American Ballet Theatre, The Boston Opera Company, and the New York Shakespeare Festival.

- The Council initiated imaginative new programs which will create an American Lyric Theatre Workshop, a Master Chamber Orchestra, a Southeastern Regional Opera, an annual Literary Anthology, low-rent studio living quarters for artists, and extend metropolitan museum facilities to smaller communities.
- The Council is conducting studies to explore the possibility of establishing an American Film Institute, an Institute of Architecture, Planning and Design, a program to strengthen arts curricula in high schools, and a new system of music education for elementary and secondary schools.
- The Council has approved a grant for 21 two-hour programs which will be made available to the 113 educational television stations throughout the country.