

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
ARTS

MUSEUMS &
VISUAL ARTS

**“We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means
of inspiration and survival.”**

- Winston Churchill

Dear Colleagues,

We know that these are trying times, the effects of which are still unknown and may be for some time coming - please know that we are with you, and share in your concern for what comes next. We have some resources to share, accessibility tips for online programming, information for applicants and grantees, and a job listing. Please visit us at www.arts.gov for more information about the CARES Act stimulus plan.

While no one can predict how this situation will continue to unfold, we are confident in the power of art in all of its magnificent forms to endure. The Arts Endowment staff is committed to assist in helping the sector heal and rebuild.

Be well and take care,
The Museums and Visual Arts Team

NEA COVID-19 INFO

Listen to the weekly [podcast with Chairman Mary Anne Carter](#) about the impact of Covid-19 on the arts community and the 75 million dollars the National Endowment for the Arts received from Congress in the CARES Act to award to the nonprofit arts sector.

Take a moment to review the FAQs information below provided for applicants and grantees. This information can also be found on the [Apply for a Grant](#) page and the [Manage Your Award](#) section of the NEA website.

GRANTEE FINAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 31, 2020

[Read the FAQs](#)

To prepare for the distribution of funding under the CARES Act, the Arts Endowment has cancelled its April 9, 2020 Challenge America application deadline. Challenge America applicants may apply under the [Grants for Arts Projects](#) application deadline on July 9, 2020. For more information, contact challengeamerica@arts.gov.

WE'RE HIRING!

Come work with us!
The National Endowment for the Arts is looking for a **Museums, Visual Arts, and Indemnity Director**. The opportunity will be available on USAJobs.gov, **Monday, April 6, 2020 through Wednesday, April 15, 2020.**

[APPLY HERE](#)

ACCESSIBILITY CORNER

As more and more programmatic offerings move online - the NEA's Accessibility Office has put together some tips for making work more virtually accessible. For the full list of best practices please email the office at accessibility@arts.gov.

Here are a few tips to get you started:

Virtual Exhibitions and Collections:

- Will all images include alternative text for people who are blind or have low vision and use screen-reading software? Alternative text (also called “alt attribute”, “alt text”, or “alt-tag”) is a visual description of an image that can be added using image formatting tools to describe the image for screen-reader users. Social media platforms also allow users to add alt text to their images before they are posted.
- Ensure videos are captioned and consider adding visual description (see above).

Videoconferencing and Webinars:

- Will the webinar be live-captioned? Note: Since webinars provide a platform for people to ask questions and interact with the speakers in real time, live captions allow people who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate in real time.
- Are presenters making their material as accessible as possible? Be sure to:
 - Describe all images used in the presentation.
 - Use text that is high-contrast and in a large, legible font. Avoid italics and specialty or decorative fonts.
 - Balance the need to provide visual information for visual learners with the need to keep the text concise.

ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEYS

Note: These links lead to websites other than arts.gov.

Americans for the Arts is actively collecting data and stories about the economic impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector ([view here](#)). We wanted to share this **impact survey** with grantees to ensure that COVID’s economic impact on non-profit visual art and gallery spaces, museums, and independent visual artists is represented in the findings as they work to promote the inclusion of the arts and culture sector in any stimulus package options and other Federal relief measures.

Freelancers Union is **collecting data of COVID-19’s impact on freelancers**, many of whom operate without traditional employee protections like health benefits and unemployment insurance. We encourage you to share this information with your constituents, as the survey is capturing data that will be useful for our field. Also, Freelancer’s Union provides useful resources for those identifying as freelancers. Membership is free.

Washington Project for the Arts, a platform for collaborative and experimental artist-driven projects in DC is **conducting a survey** to collect data and anecdotes on the impact of COVID-19 on visual artists and artists who work in the visual arts realm.

FIELD RESOURCES

Note: These links lead to websites other than arts.gov.

ArtsReady

ArtsReady, an online emergency preparedness service by and for arts/cultural nonprofits, provides arts organizations with customized business continuity plans for post-crisis sustainability. They have recently posted COVID-19 specific webinars and resources.

COMMON FIELD

Common Field invites members of the Common Field Network and the public to add knowledge to the **open document COVID-19 Resources for the Artist Organization Field**.

+ READ MORE

American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums has compiled **a guide to help museums** prepare internally and externally for outbreaks in their communities.

Association of Art Museum Directors

The Association of Art Museum Directors has been aggregating information on closures and cancellations, and **how museums can best respond to COVID-19**.

CONTACT US

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