

# CREATIVITY MAKES AMERICA STRONGER.



**We ask our Congressional delegation to protect and defend full funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).**

## **The Arts Provide Multiple Benefits to Montana and America**

- NEA funding is particularly important to **rural communities**.
- Public investment in the arts guarantees access to the benefits of the arts, even in rural communities.
- Programs providing arts for **veterans and military families** to address physical and mental health, heal PTSD, and **prevent suicide**, are a major emphasis at the NEA.
- Creative Aging programs enrich life and enhance well-being among **older adults**.
- NEA-supported arts education is shown to **improve school attendance**, increase graduation rates, and develop skill-building and problem-solving skills to the nation's youth
- The NEA helps Montana **preserve our culture** as Americans by supporting folk and traditional arts programs. The President is a champion of America 250, and there is no better way to celebrate our nation's heritage than through art, music, performances, literature, and NEA-supported community events.

## **This Tiny Investment Yields Enormous Benefits**

- The arts generate a **\$37 billion trade surplus annually**, and return \$29 billion in tax revenues that boost the government's bottom line.
- Each \$1 in NEA grant funds leverages another \$9 from other public and private sources, bringing the United States a huge return on investment.

**ABOVE: SADDLE MAKER MARC BROGGER IN HIS WORKSHOP AT THREE FORKS. THE NEA SUPPORTS FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS.**



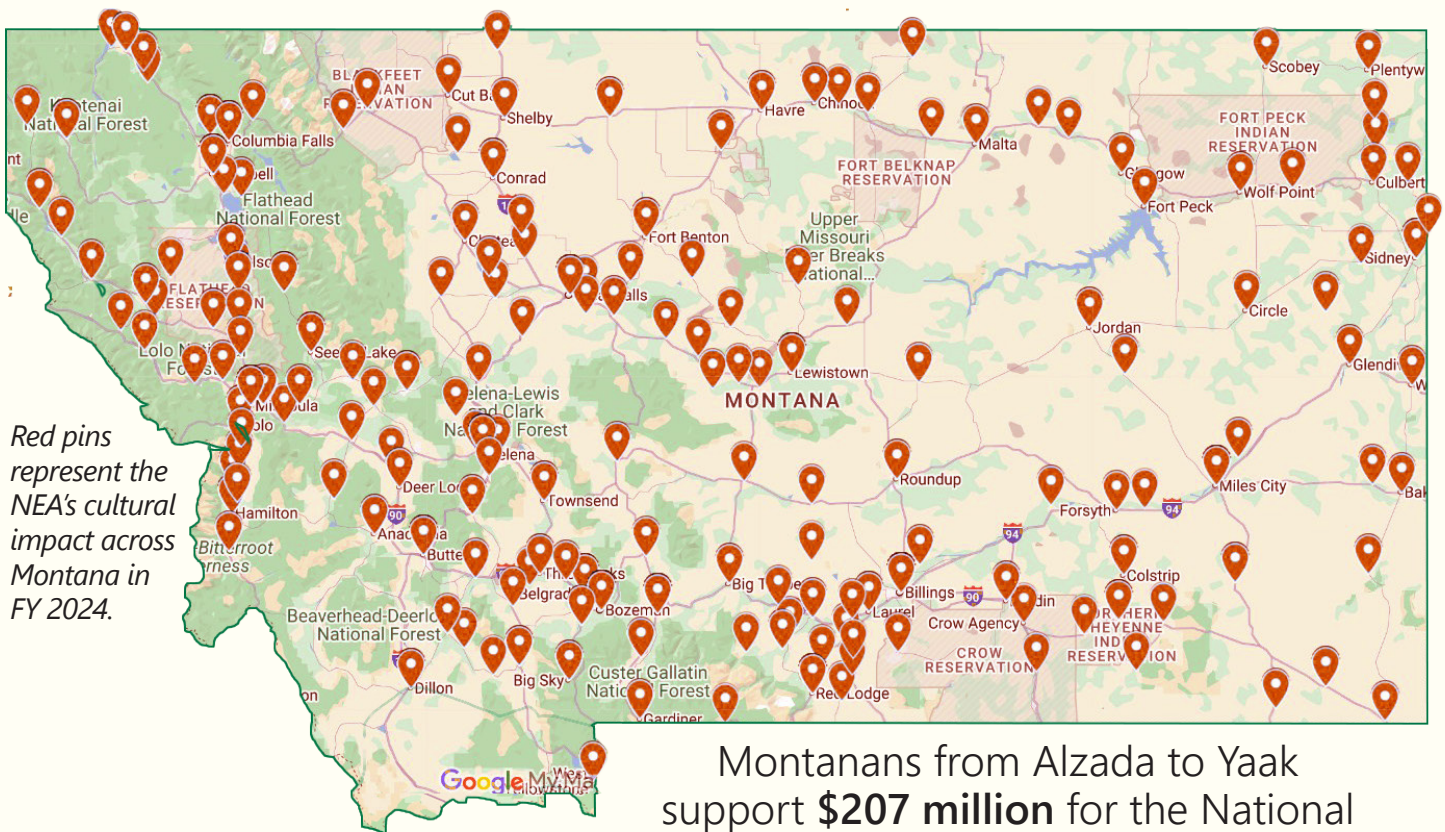
The arts deliver a fivefold return on investment: boosting economic productivity, improving education outcomes, fostering civic cohesion, facilitating good health, and preserving our cherished heritage and traditions. No other industry offers all those outcomes alongside beauty and inspiration.

**\$207 million = less than 0.003% of the federal budget.**

*Creative Forces, the NEA's Military Healing Arts program, improves the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers. This program is based on data showing that the creative arts help reduce suicide among veterans.*

Yet it represents too great a loss of American culture NOT to defend.

Say YES to \$207 million for the National Endowment for the Arts.



**MONTANA  
ARTS COUNCIL**

