

# Future of the Arts?

What will the arts/humanities arena look like under President Trump?

“The Trump Administration needs to reform and cut spending dramatically, and targeting **waste** like the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities would be a good first step in showing that the Trump Administration is serious about radically reforming the federal budget,”

- Brian Darling

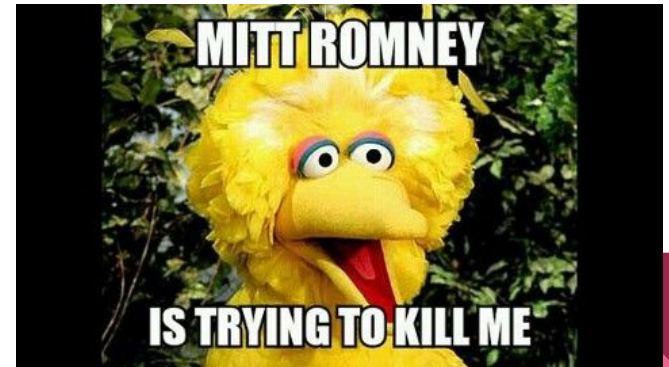
# Trump Administration is reportedly planning to:

1. Eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts
  2. Eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities
  3. Privatize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting
- Based off of a previous policy paper from the Heritage Foundation
  - Part of a larger plan to cut overall spending



# What do these organizations do?

1. NEA: Provides grants for art projects, museums, community building endeavors
2. NEH: Provides grants for documentaries, museums, scholars, education, libraries
3. Corporation of Public Broadcasting:
  - a. NPR
  - b. PBS
    - i. #tbt to Mitt Romney and the Big Bird Scandal



# In Defense of Cutting the Funding

- Using taxpayer funding for projects that may go against people's vision, cultural values/frivolous pursuits
  - Infamous "Piss Christ" received \$15,000 in funding from NEA
  - \$15,000 for the poem "lighght"
- Using public funding for NPR/PBS is wrong considering both have liberal slants
- Budget cutting will only be successful if you make lots of small cuts
- Most funding goes to urban centers
  - Ignoring Middle America
  - Funding going to "cultured upper class elite"

# In Defense of Cutting the Funding

These organizations could survive without federal funding:

- NPR and PBS have relatively stable membership
- Most organizations that receive funding from NEA are funded in most part by private organizations, NEA funding is only “a drop in the bucket”
  - In the past, cutting of federal subsidy coincided with increase in private funding



# In Defense of the Arts

“It is the mark of a great democracy to support the arts, which are an expression of what makes us human,” - the Association of Art Museum Directors

NEH responsible for:



# Funding

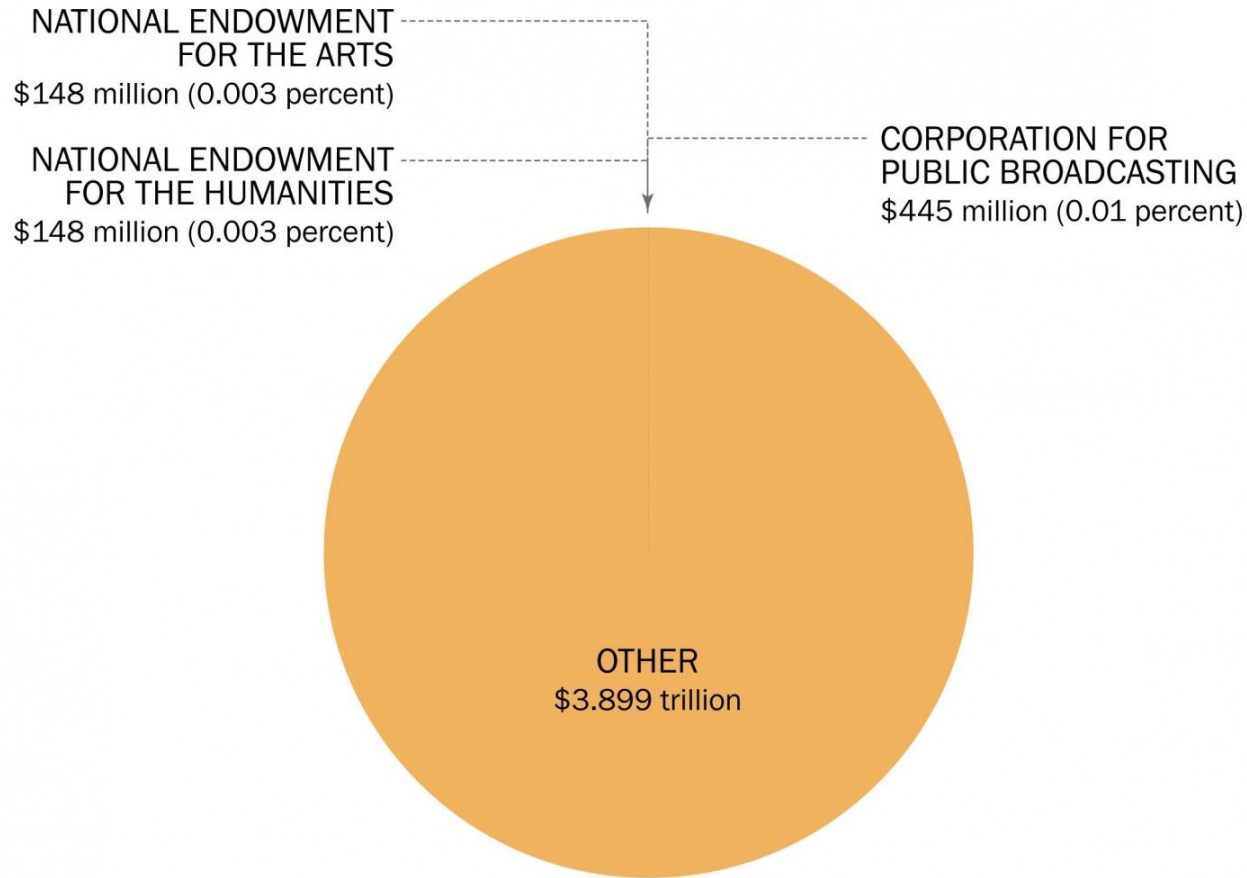
Combined, these programs make up < .02% of Federal spending





# Federal spending in 2016

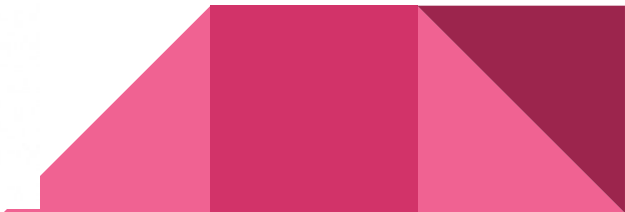
Data on federal outlays during the fiscal year.



## Funding Continued

Willing to spend \$38 million taxpayer dollars on a wall Mexico is “going to pay for”

Average taxpayer pays \$0.46 a year for the NEA and \$0.46 for the NEH.

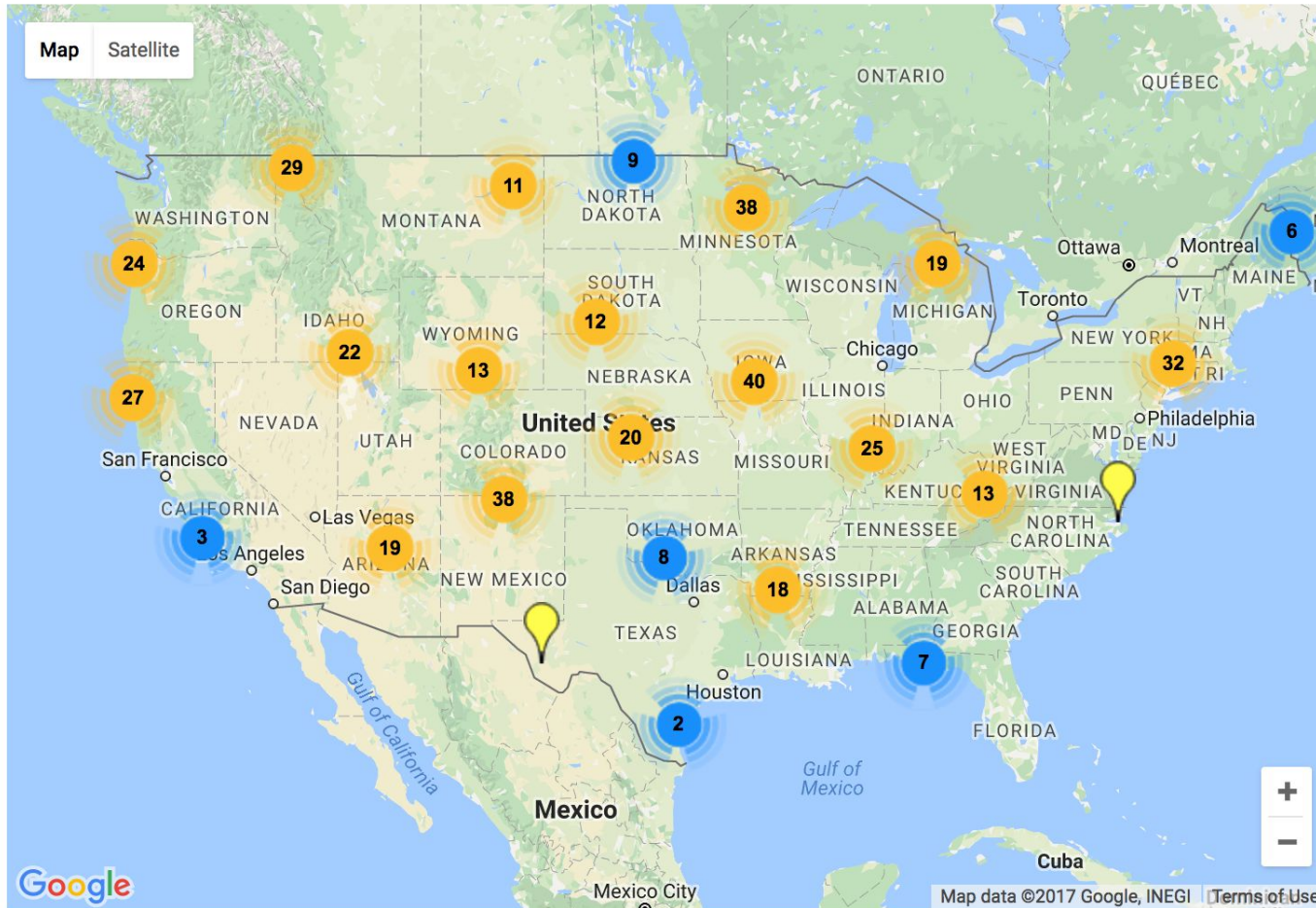


# Funding supports Middle America

“For every Metropolitan Museum of Art, where federal support is minimal, there are many other organizations that simply could not survive without public funding.”

- Help transport famous works of art to smaller museums
- Some public radio stations in rural America, federal funding makes up 40% of their operating costs
- Appalshop in Appalachia
- Help tourism efforts
  - Shows encourage people to visit → effects for hotels, restaurants, etc.
- Privatizing will put smaller, riskier projects at a disadvantage

# CPB Support for Rural Stations



“219 of the 577 station grantees currently receiving CPB support are considered rural. Of these, 60 are public television station grantees and 159 are public radio station grantees.”

<http://www.cpb.org/aboutpb/rural>



# Federal Funding for the Arts is Symbolic

- “The public realm—as opposed to commercial entertainment, including politics as currently practiced—produces ideas, information and emotional states that can’t be predicted, or controlled. It fosters the research that challenges venerable assumptions about the world; it generates the data that can point to the failings and blindness of people in power, and the often invisible frailty of our world; and it offers us ideas about the well-lived and ethical life that can’t be contained within the market’s understanding that winning is everything and consumption is paradise. It also creates webs of dependency and connection, on each other, on books, on art, on knowledge, that are, paradoxically, the well springs of genuine freedom.” - Phillip Kennicott

# Economic Benefits

“State arts agencies support about 18,000 organizations, schools and artists, making the economic, educational, civic and cultural benefits of the arts available to 5,100 communities across the United States.”

Supports small business development

Community revitalization

Fosters development of a skilled workforce

Art ed programs can reduce dropout rates, delinquent behaviors

# Some Works/Programs Supported by NEA/NEH/PBS/NPR

- NEA-funded art therapy programs for Veterans, underprivileged children
- Funding for Forest Hills Elementary School's recent mural project
- Ken Burns' Civil War Documentary
- Teacher enrichment programs
- PBS educational programming like Cyberchase
- Public Broadcasting in rural areas helps with disaster management
  - Current projects exploring how to best reach people with hearing impairments
- Libraries!!!!
- Playgrounds, redevelopment of public housing, historic preservation
- The design of a warming bassinet for premature infants in developing countries
- Programs that teach children about innovation, entrepreneurship
- a decorative arts training program in New York for HIV-positive individuals from low-income communities
- Humanities initiatives at Community Colleges