Funding Opportunity: NEA Releases New Research Labs Program

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – May 27, 2016

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has released a new program entitled “National Endowment for the Arts Research Labs” (NEA Research Labs). Through this program, NEA seeks to “support a series of transdisciplinary research partnerships, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to produce and report empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.”

This new opportunity builds upon NEA’s prior efforts to measure and understand the value, benefits, and impacts of the arts. Unlike most NEA funding opportunities which support the development of artistic projects, this solicitation is research focused. NEA is looking to fund applications that examine a theory-based research question.

NEA has identified three areas of special interest. Each NEA Research Lab should focus on one of the following topic areas:

1. The Arts, Health, and Social/Emotional Well-Being
2. The Arts, Creativity, Cognition, and Learning
3. The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation

Due Date: Proposals are due July 12.

Total Funding and Award Size: This program will fund cooperative agreements for a duration of up to two years. NEA expects to award $150,000 to successful proposals. Each NEA Research Lab must provide a one-to-one match from non-federal sources. NEA has not indicated how many awards it expects to issue.

Eligibility and Limitations: Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education and nonprofit research organizations.

Sources and Additional Background:
- The solicitation is available at https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/nea-research-labs-program-solicitation.pdf.
- Additional information can be found at https://www.arts.gov/program-solicitation-national-endowment-for-the-arts-research-labs/.