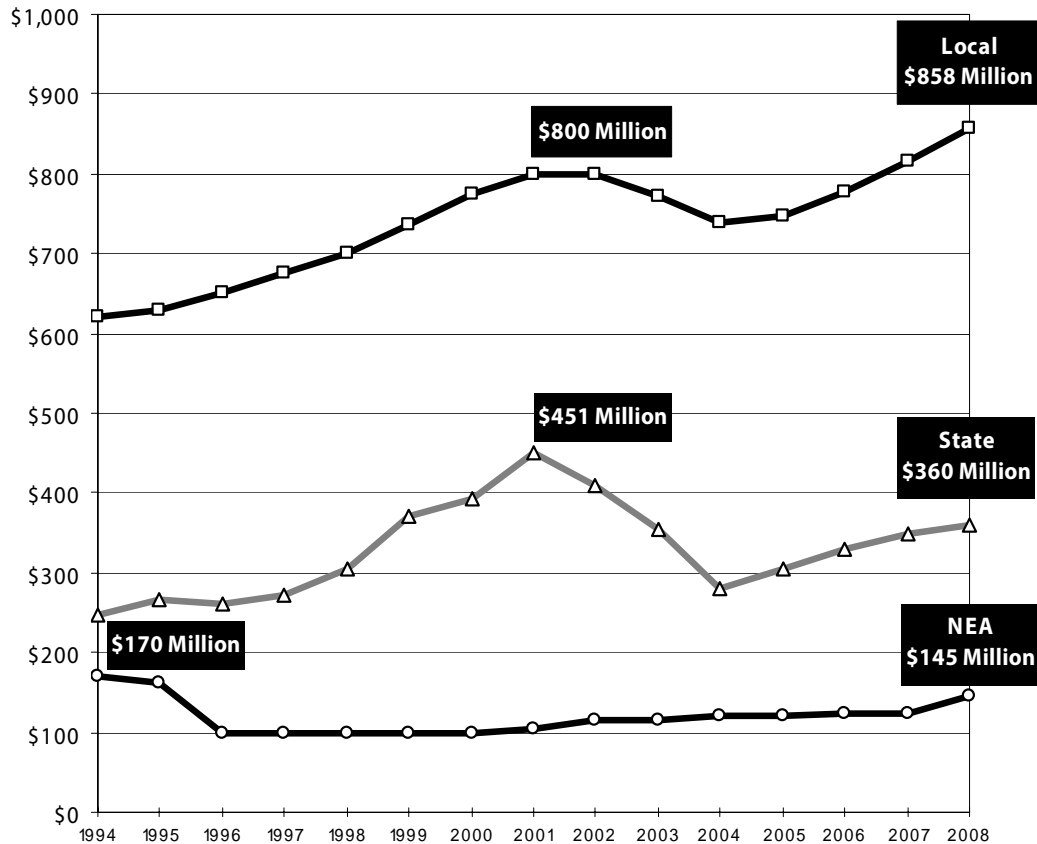




**Arts Facts . . . Government Arts Funding**  
 Local and state government arts support are up for the fourth consecutive year. NEA funding grew 16 percent in 2008, its largest increase in 28 years.

### Government Support for the Arts Federal, State and Local 1994 to 2008



- **Local** government arts funding reached an all time high in 2008, up an estimated 5 percent to \$858 million, marking a fourth consecutive year of growth. This upward trend reestablishes a positive trajectory that was sidetracked by cuts in 2003, when **local** government arts funding dropped for the first time in 15 years, due to the sluggish economy and post-9/11 drops in tourism.
- In 2008, **state** legislative arts appropriations increased for the fourth consecutive year—up 2.7 percent to \$359.6 million. State arts funding, which tracks closely with the economy, had record growth in the late 1990’s—reaching a high of \$451 million in 2001—followed by a precipitous drop to \$281 million by 2004 (38 percent decrease).
- The 2008 Congressional appropriations to the **NEA** was the agency’s largest increase in 28 years, up 16 percent to \$144.7 million. After reaching a high of \$176 million in 1992, the NEA budget was cut 40 percent in 1996 and remained relatively unchanged until 2001.

Source: Americans for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, NEA, 2008.