



Independent Auditor's Report

Inspector General, National Endowment for the Arts
Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) as of September 30, 2017 and 2016 and the related Statements of Net Cost, Changes in Net Position, and Budgetary Resources for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

NEA management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial statement audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 17-03, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Those standards and OMB Bulletin No. 17-03 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we considered internal control relevant to the NEA's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the NEA's internal control.

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Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Endowment for the Arts as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and its net cost, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context.

Other Accompanying Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The Message from the Chairman, Inspector General's Summary of Top Management Challenges, and Managements Assurances are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are not required parts of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the NEA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the NEA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the NEA's

internal control. We did not test all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly defined by the *Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982*.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the NEA's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. In our fiscal year 2017 audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. Given these limitations, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Although not considered to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, we noted certain other matters that were communicated to management in a separate letter. Additionally, we have provided the status of the prior year findings in Appendix I.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the NEA's internal control. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the NEA's internal control. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether NEA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts and certain provisions of other laws and regulations specified in OMB Bulletin No. 17-03. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* or OMB Bulletin No. 17-03.

We also performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions referred to in Section 803(a) of the *Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996* (FFMIA). Providing an opinion

on compliance with FFMIA was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests of FFMIA disclosed no instances in which the NEA's financial management systems did not substantially comply with the (1) federal financial management system requirements, (2) applicable federal accounting standards, and (3) application of the United States Government Standard General Ledger at the transaction level.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the NEA's compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the NEA's compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Williams, Adley & Company PC, LLP
Washington, District of Columbia
November 3, 2017

APPENDIX I: STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

Prior Year Findings		Current Year Status
16-01	NEA should improve its process for reviewing open obligations and updating Delphi in a timely manner to reflect GMS grant information	Closed
16-02	Improvements needed in NEA's Internal Control Assessment Process	Closed