



Patrice Walker Powell

As Deputy Chairman for States, Regions, and Local Arts Agencies of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Ms. Powell oversees grants involving a national network of governmental and nonprofit partners. Concurrently, she is the NEA Director of Local Arts Agencies (making grants to municipal and county agencies throughout the country, notably to those located in America's top fifty cities by population) as well as the Challenge America Fast-Track category, supporting small grants benefitting underserved communities. In these capacities, Ms. Powell is responsible for federal grants totaling nearly \$60 million.

Recently, Ms. Powell served as the agency's acting chairman (from January until August 2009) with oversight of 170 staff, a budget totaling \$150 million as well as the influx of an additional \$50 million through federal "Stimulus" monies designed to help stabilize job losses in the non-profit cultural sector.

Ms. Powell has been an NEA staff member since 1991. After joining the Endowment, she was appointed director of the Expansion Arts Program (concluded in 1995), with oversight of NEA-funded programs in rural, inner-city, tribal, and ethnically diverse communities. Ms. Powell's previous work included positions with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts. She was also a principal research consultant for a major U.S. Department of Labor report regarding exemplary arts and humanities projects funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. She began her career as a stage manager for international and commercial touring artistry