The National Council on the Arts advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts on agency policies and programs. It reviews and makes recommendations on applications for grants, funding guidelines, leadership initiatives, and nominations for the National Medal of Arts. The Council meets three times a year.

Fourteen voting members of the Council—all private citizens-are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms, and are selected for their distinguished service or achieved eminence in the arts. In 1997, Congress enacted legislation that required the appointment of six members of Congress, three from the House of Representatives and three from the Senate, to serve in an ex officio, non-voting capacity for two-year terms.

The following indicates Council members who served in FY 2001:
Bill Ivey, Chairman

Member whose term expired in 1998*

Judith Rubin
Patron/Trustee
New York, NY

Members whose terms
expired in 2000*
Patrick Davidson
Television Producer
Chatsworth, CA
Terry Evans
Photographer
Chicago, IL
Ronnie Heyman
Patron/Trustee
New York, NY
Richard Stern
Patron/Trustee
Chicago, IL
Luis Valdez
Theater Company Director
San Juan Bautista, CA
Townsend Wolfe III
Museum Director
Little Rock, AR

Member whose term
expired in 2001*
Hsin-Ming Fung
Architect
Los Angeles, CA
*Continues to serve until a successor takes office.

Members whose terms
expire in 2002
Joy Harjo
Poet/Musician
Honolulu, HI
Nathan Leventhal
Patron/Trustee
New York, NY
Marsha Mason
Actor/Director
Santa Fe, NM
Joan Specter
Patron/Trustee
Philadelphia, PA

Members whose terms expire in 2004

Gordon Davidson
Theater Center
Director/Producer
Los Angeles, CA
Cleo Parker Robinson
Dance Company
Director/Choreographer
Denver, CO

Ex officio members
(terms expire in 2002)
Mike DeWine
U.S. Senate
(R-Ohio)
Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
(D-Illinois)
Jeff Sessions
U.S. Senate
(R-Alabama)
Three vacancies
U.S. House of Representatives

