

ARTS

FROM A16

Hoone added that the money also demonstrates support of the arts, which “make life worth living.”

Natalie Stetson is executive director of the Erie Canal Museum, which this year received a \$60,000 NEA grant to present an Erie Canal documentary in cities along the canal, including a showing in Baldwinsville.

She said the money isn’t part of the annual budget, but is used for special projects like the film — things a small museum like hers could never afford otherwise.

“We’re always asking not to cut our funding, probably since the NEA was founded,” she said. “There was always a good deal of hope that representatives would listen to us. There’s something in

the air now that feels a little more real and a little more solid.”

In all, Trump’s budget would eliminate 19 agencies, including the NEA.

Some are well known, like the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides money for television and radio networks, like Central New York’s WRVO.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has supported museums like the Erie Canal Museum and given millions of dollars to Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies.

Ruth Small is Meredith Professor of Information Studies at the iSchool. She has received more than a dozen grants from IMLS since 2003 for research projects with a national scope.

One such project created a database of thousands of lesson plans for teaching media literacy — how to evaluate

the authenticity of information, i.e. “fake news.” Those plans are available to schools across the country for free. The iSchool maintains the database.

Small said the grants have partially or fully funded tuition and work for more than 100 students.

SU also receives less-frequent grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Last year, the NEH awarded \$50,400 to a Syracuse University professor to study the cultural impact of tea. Another group of professors is using a two-and-a-half-year, \$29,879 grant from the NEH to create a digital cultural map of Onondaga Lake.



Bradley Walker Tomlin’s “Still Life (Inward Preoccupation),” 1939, is part of a retrospective at the Everson Museum of Art through May 14. *Everson Museum photo*

