

PRESS RELEASE
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STATE ARTS FUNDING DOWN BY FOUR PERCENT, SLOWING RATE OF DECLINE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies decreased by 4.0% in fiscal year 2012, according to the *Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey* report, published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). Between FY2011 and FY2012, state arts agencies lost \$10.9 million in total legislative appropriations. These funds, at \$263.0 million for FY2012, equate to an investment of \$0.83 per capita. Appropriations to state arts agencies represent 0.035% of total state general fund expenditures for FY2012.

Fiscal year 2012 marks the fourth consecutive year of declines to legislative appropriations, but the rate of decline has decreased in each of the past three years. In 2010, the cumulative decrease in state arts agency appropriations was 10.0%. In 2011, appropriations declined by 7.2%. This slowing rate of decline follows minor improvements in the overall state budget environment. State budgets continue to show signs of structural stress, with \$95 billion in budget gaps in FY2012 and another \$40 billion in shortfalls projected for FY2013, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers. However, state revenues achieved some modest gains in FY2012, leading to fewer midyear budget reductions in FY2011 and more robust general fund spending in FY2012.

While the slowing rate of appropriations declines is welcome news, the long-term trend remains challenging for state arts agencies. Since 2001, appropriations have declined by more than 40%, resulting in significant cutbacks to state arts agency services to schools, communities and the public.

State Arts Agency Facts

- **States currently invest \$263.0 million—about \$0.83 per capita—in state arts agencies.**
- **State arts agency appropriations comprise 0.035% (less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent) of total state general fund expenditures in FY2012.**
- **Each year, state arts agencies fund more than 17,000 organizations, schools and artists in more than 4,700 communities across the United States.**

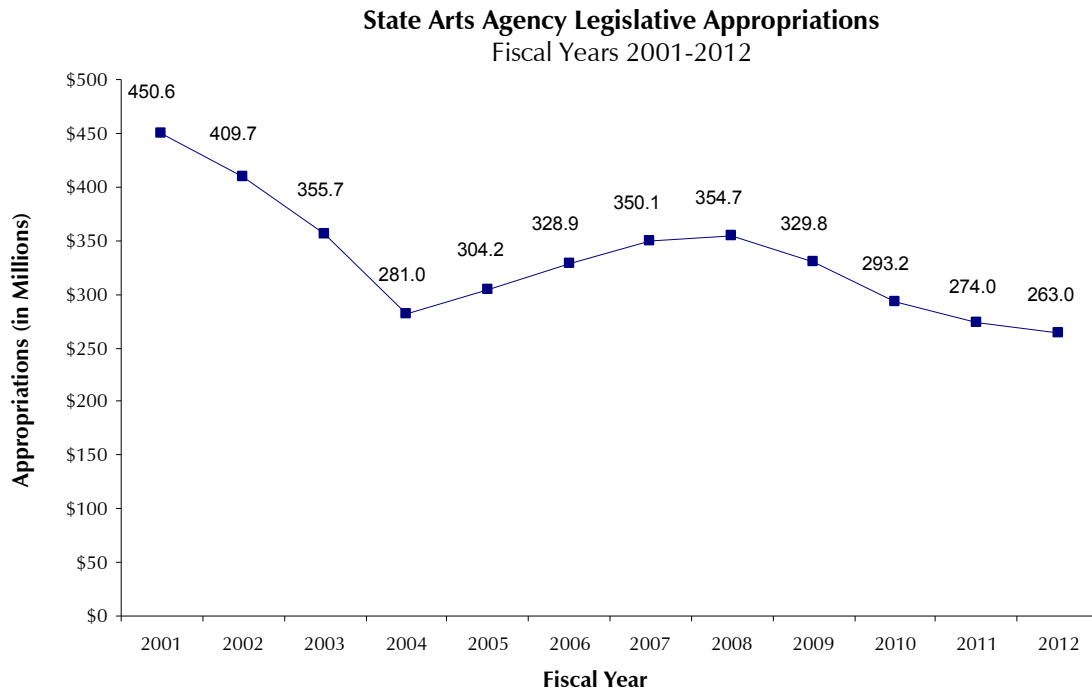
Fiscal year 2012 marked the first year in which a state eliminated all funds for the arts. Although the Kansas Arts Commission continues to maintain a governing council and to exist per state statute, all of its FY2012 state funding was zeroed out by gubernatorial veto. The agency subsequently lost its National Endowment for the Arts grant for the year. "The Kansas veto did not set a policy precedent," said Jonathan Katz, NASAA CEO. "Lawmakers in the other 49 states maintained a public investment in the arts because they recognized that the arts offer a net gain. Beyond their cultural and civic benefits, the tax payments, jobs and tourism revenues catalyzed by the arts result in increased public resources to address other policy goals like health care and education."

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies.

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NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. NASAA and state arts agencies work to broaden access to the arts in every corner of America and to serve the public good by making the arts an essential ingredient of state policy.

Additional information on state arts agency [funding](#) and [why government should support the arts](#) is available on the [NASAA website](#).



SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes
Fiscal Years 2011-2012

| Increases | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Number of SAAs | 15 |
| Number of SAAs up 10%+ | 6 |
| Median percent increase | 7.9% |
| Flat Funding* | |
| Number of SAAs | 6 |
| Decreases | |
| Number of SAAs | 35 |
| Number of SAAs down 10%+ | 19 |
| Median percent decrease | -11.5% |
| All States | |
| Aggregate percent change | -4.0% |
| Median percent change | -5.4% |

*Flat funding includes changes of less than 0.5% in magnitude.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey, February 2012

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State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2011-2012

| State or Special Jurisdiction | Legislative Appropriation Including Line Items | | Percent Change FY11 to FY12 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | FY2011 | FY2012 | |
| Alabama | \$ 4,625,624 | \$ 3,484,517 | -24.7% |
| Alaska | 692,800 | 790,100 | 14.0% |
| American Samoa | 50,000 | 45,000 | -10.0% |
| ¹ Arizona | 665,600 | 0 | -100.0% |
| ² Arkansas | 2,097,661 | 2,943,260 | 40.3% |
| California | 4,158,000 | 3,893,000 | -6.4% |
| Colorado | 2,433,347 | 2,022,362 | -16.9% |
| Connecticut | 6,111,899 | 7,526,268 | 23.1% |
| Delaware | 1,683,300 | 1,682,300 | -0.1% |
| District of Columbia | 5,126,000 | 4,798,246 | -6.4% |
| ³ Florida ♦ | 6,356,661 | 6,023,339 | -5.2% |
| Georgia | 790,735 | 574,268 | -27.4% |
| Guam | 357,500 | 340,000 | -4.9% |
| Hawaii | 5,079,760 | 5,151,798 | 1.4% |
| Idaho | 715,600 | 674,600 | -5.7% |
| Illinois ♦ | 9,471,900 | 8,997,700 | -5.0% |
| ⁴ Indiana | 3,202,368 | 2,722,013 | -15.0% |
| Iowa ^ | 1,023,712 | 933,764 | -8.8% |
| ⁵ Kansas | 811,290 | 0 | -100.0% |
| ⁶ Kentucky | 3,069,700 | 3,055,600 | -0.5% |
| Louisiana ♦ | 3,924,939 | 3,277,421 | -16.5% |
| Maine | 654,377 | 688,593 | 5.2% |
| Maryland | 13,267,237 | 13,163,297 | -0.8% |
| ⁷ Massachusetts | 9,098,781 | 9,199,866 | 1.1% |
| Michigan | 1,417,400 | 1,317,400 | -7.1% |
| ⁸ Minnesota | 29,990,000 | 29,673,000 | -1.1% |
| Mississippi | 1,681,564 | 1,662,799 | -1.1% |
| ⁹ Missouri | 7,611,505 | 7,000,000 | -8.0% |
| Montana ^ | 440,184 | 477,941 | 8.6% |
| ¹⁰ Nebraska ♦ | 1,432,887 | 1,367,717 | -4.5% |
| ¹¹ Nevada | 1,106,460 | 961,883 | -13.1% |
| New Hampshire | 462,065 | 354,871 | -23.2% |
| ¹² New Jersey ♦ | 20,699,000 | 16,397,000 | -20.8% |
| New Mexico ♦ | 1,779,100 | 1,477,700 | -16.9% |
| ¹³ New York | 43,135,000 | 36,209,000 | -16.1% |
| North Carolina ♦ | 8,709,563 | 7,321,321 | -15.9% |
| North Dakota | 684,367 | 681,801 | -0.4% |
| Northern Marianas | 242,468 | 154,743 | -36.2% |
| Ohio | 6,594,290 | 7,605,704 | 15.3% |
| Oklahoma | 4,406,689 | 4,010,087 | -9.0% |
| Oregon ^ | 1,916,679 | 1,995,468 | 4.1% |
| Pennsylvania | 8,422,000 | 9,065,000 | 7.6% |
| ¹⁴ Puerto Rico | 14,353,000 | 23,474,000 | 63.5% |
| Rhode Island | 2,499,613 | 2,113,862 | -15.4% |
| South Carolina | 2,050,846 | 1,937,598 | -5.5% |
| South Dakota | 668,509 | 668,509 | 0.0% |
| Tennessee | 8,105,700 | 8,191,600 | 1.1% |
| ¹⁵ Texas | 6,074,544 | 2,543,272 | -58.1% |
| ¹⁶ Utah ♦ | 2,814,900 | 5,148,500 | 82.9% |
| Vermont | 507,607 | 507,607 | 0.0% |
| Virgin Islands | 743,208 | 372,402 | -49.9% |
| Virginia | 3,794,813 | 3,794,813 | 0.0% |
| ¹⁷ Washington | 1,228,000 | 1,107,000 | -9.9% |
| West Virginia | 1,203,645 | 1,214,824 | 0.9% |
| ¹⁸ Wisconsin | 2,417,700 | 839,800 | -65.3% |
| ¹⁹ Wyoming | 1,295,439 | 1,397,439 | 7.9% |
| Total | \$273,957,536 | \$263,031,973 | -4.0% |

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies,
Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey, February 2012

Table Notes

^ Figures reflect SAA appropriations only and do not include appropriations to the state's cultural endowment.

♦ Percent change is significantly affected by a change in line items.

¹ Arizona

In FY2011 the agency received funding from two sources: a general fund appropriation and a percentage of state business licensing fees. All general fund dollars for the agency were eliminated for FY2012. \$1.3 million will be transferred from state business license revenues, a reduction of 8% from FY2011.

² Arkansas

\$1.3 million of the FY2012 appropriation will be released at the governor's discretion.

³ Florida

Appropriation includes \$2.1 million in operating funds for the Museum of Florida History.

⁴ Indiana

Both fiscal years reflect mandatory reserves.

⁵ Kansas

State funding for the SAA was eliminated by gubernatorial veto. Although the Kansas Arts Commission continues to exist per state statute, it received no legislative appropriation in FY2012.

⁶ Kentucky

FY2012 appropriation is subject to a \$58,800 midyear reduction.

⁷ Massachusetts

Figures reflect SAA budget only and do not include appropriations to the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund.

⁸ Minnesota

Funding change includes a decrease in general fund appropriations to the SAA largely offset by a projected increase in sales tax revenues from the Minnesota Legacy Fund.

⁹ Missouri

The source of this appropriation is the state-run cultural endowment fund. The budget enacted by the legislature authorizes the SAA to draw up to \$9,020,514 from the principal of the endowment. The actual amount drawn from the endowment is left to the discretion of the Missouri Arts Council Board and is reflected in the figures reported here.

¹⁰ Nebraska

The Nebraska legislature eliminated all line item funding for FY2012, but added funds designated for former line item recipients to the SAA's grants appropriation.

¹¹ Nevada

General fund appropriations to the agency were cut by 45%, but this cut was partially offset by the addition of room tax revenue from the Tourism Commission into the agency's appropriation.

¹² New Jersey

The New Jersey legislature eliminated all line item funding for FY2012, but has stipulated that former line item recipients should seek support from SAA grant programs.

¹³ New York

Reported figures taken from state budget documents.

¹⁴ Puerto Rico

Appropriation increase coincided with an \$8 million decline in other state funding.

¹⁵ Texas

Appropriation from state general fund declined by 50%. Additional funds appropriated from other state sources in FY2011 also were eliminated in FY2012.

¹⁶ Utah

Appropriation for agency grants and services declined by 9%. Increase was comprised of \$2.7 million in new line item funds. Figures here reflect the SAA budget only and do not include appropriations for the Beverly Sorenson Arts Learning Program.

¹⁷ Washington

Source of funding for FY2012 has changed from the state general fund to the Heritage Center Account.

¹⁸ Wisconsin

Appropriation reflects reductions to agency programs and operations. Percent for art funds (a separate funding mechanism) were also eliminated.

¹⁹ Wyoming

The total appropriation for the agency's FY2011-2012 biennium was flat, but funds were allocated unevenly between the two years.

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