

Executive Directors Peer Session – Breakout Report

NASAA Assembly 2008, September 11-13

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING STRATEGIES

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Mississippi

- The Mississippi Endowment for the Arts has been set up within a community foundation. This Endowment has secured \$1 million in three years and grants out the interest that has been earned. Embedding this within the community foundation has helped to encourage the foundation to connect with more arts organizations.
- The state arts agency (SAA) has also received funds from Blue Cross / Blue Shield for a pilot program in health and wellness. The partnership provides \$150,000 in pass-through funds for ballroom dancing in junior high schools.
- Bond funds are used to support the Building Fund for the Arts program.
- The SAA has secured private donors for an arts education summer training program.

Hawaii

- A well-resourced community foundation exists in Hawaii. This offers potential, but how can the SAA and the arts tap into it?
- The SAA has not established an alternative funding stream, due to concerns that the state legislature will "raid" it.
- The state museum has a 501c3 "friends" group with a new director.

Tennessee

- Significant funding for the arts is produced through sales of specialty license plates to motorists. One arts plate provides funding and recognition for the agency. The majority of funds are secured through a portion of other specialty plates (football, etc.) being appropriated to the SAA.
- A [legislative arts caucus](#) has been instrumental in securing/protecting funds. The caucus involves the chairs of the finance and education committees. Thirty nine members – who must have voting records supporting the arts – currently participate.
- Advocacy efforts are supported by an active citizens group and a paid lobbyist.

RESOURCES

See NASAA's Policy Brief on [State Arts Agency Supplemental Funding Strategies](#) for an overview of supplemental funding strategies adopted by state arts agencies. (Contact Dora.Shick@nasaa-arts.org for a password.)

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