

Report to Councils September 2015

Leaders of state arts agencies have many responsibilities: guiding your agency's work, staying abreast of legislation, scanning the field for best practices, staying connected with peers. Count on NASAA as your one-stop resource—and read NASAA Report to Councils for succinct news, advice and links to assistance. To receive this guide regularly, contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

Navigate Change in Salt Lake City



Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" in Great Salt Lake.
Photo by Soren.harward

Sharpen your skills and connect with your colleagues at the [NASAA 2015 Leadership Institute](#), October 7-9 in Salt Lake City. Hosted by the [Utah Division of Arts & Museums](#), this year's gathering has a special focus on leading transformation efforts. [Sessions](#) are designed to help you and your agency manage change, build public support and adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

The conference provides opportunities to meet exclusively with your [council-member peers](#). National Endowment for the Arts

Chairman Jane Chu joins us to celebrate the NEA's 50th anniversary and to dialogue with Leadership Institute participants.

And no NASAA conference is complete without the inspiration of local [artists](#). 2015 Leadership Institute participants visit the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, relish music ranging from Tejano-Mex to woodwinds to gypsy jazz, and enjoy contemporary and Polynesian dance.

Be sure to [register!](#) Concurrent sessions offer an abundance of choices, so NASAA offers a team discount to help your state take full advantage of the offerings.

2015 State Legislative Roundup

As state legislatures hummed with activity this year, NASAA kept tabs on bills that could affect the arts or state arts agencies. Summarized in the [2015 State Legislative Roundup](#) are select pieces of legislation on issues such as public art, arts education, cultural districts and more. To give you a sense of the legislative

Strategic Planning Resources

As a council member, your input to your state arts agency's strategic plan is essential. NASAA offers helpful tools in our [Strategic Planning Resource Center](#) to assist your efforts:

- [Showcase of State Arts Agency Strategic Plans](#): Completed plans from nearly every state
- [Strategic Planning Surveys](#): Examples states have used to collect constituent feedback
- [NEA Partnership Agreement Panel Observations](#): Tips and recommendations to inform your next application to the National Endowment for the Arts

NASAA also offers customized services—discounted for members—geared toward your unique needs: contact [Kelly Barsdate](#).

landscape—and offer a glimpse into the kinds of legislation beneficial to the arts—the roundup includes bills that passed, some that did not and some that remain on the table.

How Do You Compare?

Do you know where your state stands in national rankings of arts funding? How does your appropriation compare to neighboring states? Learn the answers in NASAA's handy summary of state arts agency funding in the coming year: [State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview, Fiscal Year 2016](#).

Dedicated Revenues

In addition to legislative appropriations, some state arts agencies receive funds from other sources to support their activities. In NASAA's just-updated [Dedicated Revenue Strategies Policy Brief](#), we provide a snapshot of how these funds work and have changed over time.

Revenue strategies reviewed in the brief include special taxes and fees, lottery and gaming taxes, specialty license plate sales, income tax checkoffs, and bond issues, as well as nonstate sources of funds. Sections on policy considerations and success factors are designed to help your agency navigate the pros and cons of these funding strategies.

Play a Part

NASAA's Nominating Committee recently polled state arts agency leaders about NASAA services. Your thoughtful feedback will strengthen NASAA and advance the field. Thank you!

To continue the momentum, join your fellow council members across the country in being part of NASAA's work:

- Serve on a [NASAA committee](#): Through service on committees, task forces and advisory groups, members help develop NASAA's board leadership, annual action plan and budget, fundraising, and advocacy and policy work. Contact Chief Advancement Officer [Laura Smith](#) to inquire about committee service.
- Dedicate a portion of your financial resources to NASAA by making a one-time or periodic [contribution](#)—and see [your gift at work](#).
- Keep us posted on your news. If you've authored an article or op-ed or led a special council activity, we'd love to hear about it, so that we can share your successes with other states.

NASAA values your feedback and suggestions year-round. We look forward to hearing from you!

For New Council Members

Welcome to NASAA! Bolster your work as an arts advocate by plugging into NASAA's helpful resources:

- Stay on top of relevant news and commentary by reading [NASAA Notes](#) each month. Contact [Sue Struve](#) to subscribe.
- Learn [what NASAA has done](#) for members and the field.
- Get the scoop on what other state arts agencies are up to in [State to State](#).



Have a question? [Ask NASAA!](#)