

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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## Report to Councils May 2016

In this edition of Report to Councils, we share our recent testimony to Congress on your behalf, new research on how state arts agencies are serving military communities and succinct info to assist your work as an arts leader. Also: Registration is now open for [NASAA Assembly 2016!](#)

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### NASAA Testimony to Congress on NEA

As recipients of 40% of National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) program dollars, state arts agencies have a vested interest in the federal agency's funding level. NASAA is your advocate in Congress, ensuring your needs are heard by key influencers. In April, we submitted [testimony](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives, urging support of \$155 million in NEA funding for fiscal year 2017. This figure, \$7 million above the current level, is being requested by arts advocates nationwide. In addition, NASAA's testimony:

- emphasizes the value of the federal-state partnership (including the 40% allocation);
- touts the benefits of public arts funding in growing arts education, improving rural arts access and assisting military populations; and
- noted that there is broad bipartisan support for the arts.

For more on NASAA's year-round national advocacy activity, see [Federal Updates](#).

### Integrating the Arts with Military Populations



State arts agencies (SAAs) are natural conveyors of information about the power of the arts to improve well-being. NASAA just completed research on how SAAs are serving the military community—including active-duty service members, reservists, veterans, and their families. Here are some of the findings:

- A majority of SAAs are pursuing programs, policies, services or partnerships that serve military and veteran populations through the arts.
- Services to military communities range from grant programs to arts workshops to placing art in military facilities and more.
- All those consulted in our research emphasized the value of considering the distinct needs of military populations when designing programs to serve them.



Courtesy Architect of the Capitol

For more details, see NASAA's [State Arts & Military Initiatives Strategy Sampler](#) and the [Arts & Military Snap Survey Results](#).

### 60 Seconds of Inspiration

We think you'll enjoy these quick and tasty morsels:

- [Happy anniversary](#) to state arts agencies! Our bento box proffers snack-size portions of sample SAA anniversary activities.
- [Ten Great Reasons to Support Public Art](#) outlines why so many SAAs have public art programs.
- [NASAA's Facebook page](#) offers select examples of NASAA's work on your behalf. Like us!

### Register for NASAA Assembly 2016

We invite you to [register](#) for [NASAA Assembly 2016](#)! Reserve your place at this important convening of state arts agency council members and staff, this year in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 14-17.

The [Agenda](#) is filled with sessions designed to expand your knowledge of trends and best practices in the field—and new this year are seminars exploring innovative ideas. We welcome these inspiring [speakers](#): NEA Chair Jane Chu, National Council on the Arts member Aaron Dworkin, and entrepreneur and composer Kai Kight. And in case you are wondering what to do while you are in the area, check out [Favorite Eats, Arts and Adventures](#)—personal recommendations from our hosts at the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs.

So be sure to [register](#), [reserve your room](#), and make plans to join us!

### You Can Help All SAAs Today

People like you who understand the value of state arts agencies make NASAA's work possible through your generous contributions. Your gift supports advocacy tools, research and leadership training programs designed specifically for SAAs. The spring generosity campaign ends **May 20** and we need your help to reach our \$25,000 goal! [Please give today](#). Many thanks!

### In Your Own Words



***Antzee Magruder, Vice-Chair,  
[Arkansas Arts Council](#)***

"NASAA is a valuable resource for the Arkansas Arts Council, providing knowledge, recognition and connections to colleagues across the nation. NASAA CEO Pam Breau recently spoke at our statewide conference, ArtLinks, about best practices and strategic considerations for state arts agency initiatives. Her insight and knowledge were the highlight of our meeting. Thanks to Pam and the NASAA staff for always being there for Arkansans."