

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

---

## Report to Councils

### March 2017

NASAA Report to Councils brings you the latest news on federal arts policy, offers tips on advocating for the arts in your state, and extends a hand of support and connection to appointed state arts agency leaders. Read on for more!

To receive Report to Councils regularly, contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

### Federal News

All eyes are on Washington as President Trump's executive team takes charge and Congress begins work on a fresh legislative docket. Historically, unified party control leads to busy governing periods on Capitol Hill, so we're expecting movement on a number of policy fronts.

Of chief concern to our field is sustaining support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) next fiscal year. Recent media headlines have fueled fears that some individuals in the new administration wish to eliminate the federal cultural agencies. No policy action has occurred to date, but NASAA is nonetheless working overtime to reinforce the strong support that exists for the NEA across party lines. As the federal budget process unfolds with Congress (follow the [NASAA Notes newsletter](#) for updates), our collective charge is to provide lawmakers on both sides of the aisle with every good reason to cast their votes **for** the arts. You can help! The new advocacy tools below show you how.

### Aids for Advocates

To help you and your colleagues make an inspiring case for government arts funding, check out NASAA's new advocacy tools:

- [Fact vs. Fiction: Government Arts Funding](#) deflates common myths regarding public support for the arts.
- [Five Essential Arts Arguments](#) summarizes fundamental talking points that are especially timely in today's policy environment.
- [You Can Shape Policy](#) provides advocacy action recommendations and useful advocacy dos and don'ts.



Spread the word about these great tools through your colleague networks and social media channels. You can find more help in our [Advocacy Tools directory](#), or contact NASAA for guidance in your special circumstance. (Photo by Tristin Heap, courtesy of Artists For Humanity, afhboston.org)

## Portland Awaits!

Exchange perspectives with other state arts agency leaders at the [NASAA 2017 Leadership Institute, October 11-13 in Portland, Oregon](#). Leadership Institutes are small, intimate retreats convening state arts agency chairs, council/board members and executive staff to focus on policy issues and strengthen their leadership skills. Look for more info soon. (Photo courtesy Travel Portland)



## How Does Your State Compare?

NASAA just published our annual [State Arts Agency Revenues report](#) for fiscal year 2017. The report offers comprehensive data and detailed tables describing state arts agency funding, including revenue sources and per capita rankings by state. Want to strengthen your case for FY2018 resources? Try out different funding scenarios using our updated [Per Capita Ranking Estimation Tool](#).

## Bright Ideas for Governor's Arts Awards



Many states recognize arts achievements through governor's arts awards. These programs are full of creative approaches—from nominations and partnerships to promotion and presentations. We are pleased to share the results of a fresh fact-finding mission about these programs! The [Governor's Arts Awards report](#) includes useful examples of goals and operational considerations, along with program details from nearly 40 state arts agencies. The [Governor's Arts Awards bento box](#) presents bite-sized ideas in a visual format.

## An Eye on the Future

To provide the best possible service to state arts agencies now and in the future, NASAA is taking a fresh look at our strategic plan. We're consulting with members, reaching out to other sectors, and securing a variety of forecasts for the future of the arts and state government. To serve as a model for the field, our [strategic plan process](#) is fully transparent. If you have suggestions or questions, we want to hear them! [Let us know your thoughts](#) now, and stay tuned for additional opportunities to weigh in over the summer.

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported NASAA in 2016. Support from individuals allows us to promote your priorities in Congress and create new advocacy tools and resources, like the ones featured above—activities NASAA can't use federal dollars for, but are crucial to strengthening all state arts agencies. Your gifts make our work possible, and we're grateful!