

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Report to Councils

June 2017

What's the best way to get current on federal arts policy, learn the most effective advocacy moves, and stay linked up with state arts leaders around the country? Read NASAA Report to Councils! Make sure you are on our e-mail list: contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

Federal Update

Federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) are essential to state arts agencies, but the continuation of these funds is still [at risk of elimination](#) in fiscal year 2018. NASAA is working tirelessly to mobilize support for the NEA in 2018. Among other activities, we [met with senior congressional leaders](#) responsible for the NEA budget, and [submitted testimony to Congress](#) urging funding of \$155 million. NASAA also is coordinating strategic connections with officials who hold positions on key [House](#) and [Senate](#) appropriations committees. If you know someone on these committees, please [let NASAA know](#)! Even if you don't have a committee connection, please contact your representatives and tell them the NEA matters to your agency. NASAA's [Advocacy Tools](#) can help you make your case.

New Edition! Why Should Government Support the Arts?

Speaking of advocacy, NASAA has just expanded our flagship publication, [Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#) The new version debunks myths and misconceptions about government arts funding, offering fresh research to answer questions like:

- Why can't the private sector alone fund the arts?
- Aren't there more serious issues government should address?
- Is arts support a partisan issue?
- How do federal arts funds impact states?

Share this information to boost understanding of the value of government arts funding. Remember to post a link on your social media networks!

Better Together: Public and Private Funding

An especially problematic myth faced by arts advocates is the assertion that foundation support for the arts can take the place of federal funding. But relying on private-sector support alone would leave millions of Americans behind. To learn why, see [Better Together: Public and Private Funding for the Arts](#). NASAA collaborated with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to release this fact-based piece, which equips policymakers, philanthropists and advocates alike to make a case for public investments in the arts.

New to Your Arts Council?

If you are a new council member, welcome to NASAA! These resources are especially for you:

Welcome, Newcomers: The **Councils: Quick-start menu** offers helpful information about state arts agencies and your role.

Who's Who in Government Arts Funding: This infographic outlines the team members and their roles—along with who benefits from public investment in the arts.

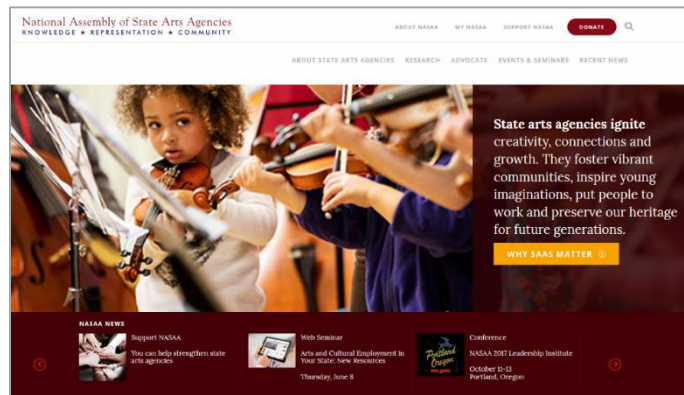
For Council Members: Get the basics on arts councils, advocacy, and staying informed and connected.

Creative Work Force State Profiles

New from NASAA, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bureau of Economic Analysis: [Creative Work Force State Profiles](#). This interactive dashboard allows you to obtain state level information on employment in the arts and culture sectors, and compares it against other major economic sectors. Explore the data for your state, and [contact NASAA](#) with any questions about this tool.

Whatta Website!

NASAA has launched a [brand-new website](#)! In addition to a fresh look, we've incorporated a user-friendly design to help you find what you need in our robust collection of content. The [ADVOCATE](#) section offers practical tools, facts and figures. NASAA [RESEARCH](#) will make you an expert on state arts agencies. [ABOUT STATE ARTS AGENCIES](#) promotes your work. And you'll find it easy to connect with NASAA and your peers via [MY NASAA](#). Please take a few minutes to browse the site and [send us your feedback](#)—we're all ears!



NASAA Leadership Institute News

Join your fellow state arts leaders at the [NASAA 2017 Leadership Institute](#), taking place **October 11-13 in Portland, Oregon**.

Our [Agenda](#) includes sessions on building public will for the arts, communications and case making, and the latest from the NEA. A special track for council members focuses on leadership during crises. In addition to these skill- and knowledge-building sessions, we'll soak in the artfulness of Portland with special performances and excursions to fascinating local venues. [Register today](#) and [reserve your room](#) at the historic Benson Hotel. (Photo: Tilikum Crossing over the Willamette River, courtesy Travel Portland)



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to NASAA's Spring Giving Campaign. Support from individuals like you makes NASAA's advocacy work possible—including all the tools and resources featured here! The fight is on to save the NEA in 2018 and your gifts make all the difference. If you haven't yet, please [give](#) today. Thank you!