Introduction

Every year, state legislatures across the country consider hundreds of bills relevant to state arts agencies (SAAs) and the cultural sector. The 2017 legislative session, which for most states was January through June, is no exception. This year, NASAA reviewed 400 arts-related bills and closely tracked about 150 of them that were especially meaningful to SAAs. This roundup summarizes current legislative trends in cultural policy and highlights select bills in eight categories. It is designed to inform SAA staff, council members, arts advocates and other stakeholders interested in how state lawmakers shape the cultural landscape.

Because legislation that fails can be as meaningful as legislation enacted, this roundup considers bills that were at various stages of the legislative process at the time of this writing. Likewise, it also features bills that could foster the arts as well as legislation that could have negative, neutral or uncertain impact. By presenting a broad cross-section of legislation, NASAA aims to equip cultural-policy leaders with the knowledge to advance policies that ultimately can be beneficial to the arts at the state level.

This roundup is based on NASAA's legislative research, which uses an on-line tool for tracking bills in every state throughout the year in addition to monitoring news articles and other publicly available documents. The knowledge and perspective of state arts agencies, however, is very valuable in mapping state legislative actions that affect arts policy. If you learn of a bill that is important to your agency—or that may be informative to other SAAs—NASAA would like to know about it. You can share your legislative leads by contacting NASAA Research Manager Paul Pietsch. If you are interested in initiating legislation in your own state, NASAA can help by identifying sample bills and information on similar efforts in other states.

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1 In this report, an engrossed bill has passed one chamber of a state legislature and been sent to the other chamber. An enrolled bill has passed both chambers and been sent to the governor. Enacted bills have been signed by the governor and become law. A resolution is a mechanism for legislative expression that is typically nonbinding. Resolutions aren't enacted but passed, as they become operative upon approval of both legislative chambers and don't require the governor's signature.
Bill Status by Category

Primary Bill Category

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Bill Status

- **Enacted**
- **In progress**
- **Progression incomplete by session adjournment**
- **Died in committee**
Bill Status by State

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Bill Status
- Enacted
- In progress
- Progression incomplete by session adjournment
- Died in committee
Because state arts agencies, as public entities, are under the purview of state legislatures, their core authority, structures and functions (and, in extreme cases, their very existence) can be altered through legislation. In some cases, like in West Virginia and Mississippi this year, legislators may propose restructuring state government in a way that affects the SAA. Other bills focus on the internal structure of an SAA, such as one in California that aims to transfer authority to hire the executive director and enacted legislation in Kentucky and Maine that reduces the number of council members. Finally, some bills stand out for their innovation, such as one enacted in Alaska that turns the SAA into a quasi-public agency.

Alaska  
H.B. 137—Making the Alaska State Council on the Arts a Quasi-public Agency  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law makes the Alaska State Council on the Arts a quasi-public agency, enables it to have more flexible procurement procedures and revenue options, and exempts percent for art project submissions from public disclosure under the Alaska Public Records Act.

California  
S.B. 104—Authorizing the Governor to Appoint the California Arts Council's Executive Director  
**Status:** Engrossed (passed senate)  
**Summary:** This bill would transfer the authority of appointing the California Arts Council's executive director from the council to the governor.

Kentucky  
H.B. 390—Reducing the Size of the Kentucky Arts Council  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law reduces the number of members of the Kentucky Arts Council from 16 to 15—conforming with a 2016 executive order through which the governor also reappointed the entire council—and clarifies that the council chair and vice chair serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Maine  
H.B. 996—Reducing the Size of the Maine Arts Commission  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law reduces the maximum size of the Maine Arts Commission from 21 to 15 commission members.

Mississippi  
S.B. 2611—Eliminating the Mississippi Arts Commission and Transferring Its Duties to the Mississippi Development Authority  
**Status:** Died in committee
**Summary:** This bill would have eliminated the Mississippi Arts Commission; transferred its authority, duties, responsibilities and staff to the Mississippi Development Authority; tasked the Mississippi Development Authority with promoting economic development through the arts; and created a 15-person Mississippi Arts Advisory Council to provide advice to that end.

**West Virginia**

**H.B. 2524—Transferring the Commission on the Arts to the West Virginia Department of Commerce**

**Status:** Engrossed (passed house) at session adjournment

**Summary:** The bill would have eliminated the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts and transferred its Division of Culture and History—which oversees the Commission on the Arts—to the West Virginia Department of Commerce.

**SAA REVENUE** [Return to TOC](#)

Every state arts agency secures Partnership Agreement Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and [appropriations from their state legislature](#). Some SAAs, however, also have additional sources of dedicated funding—such as a cultural trust or a stream of designated tax revenue—that are legislatively authorized and, therefore, are open to legislative changes. Examples of beneficial bills of this type were seen this year in Indiana, Maryland and Nebraska. Collectively, they aimed to allocate additional tax revenue to the SAA, to create a new "arts development fund" and to extend authorization for an existing cultural trust. Examples of threatening legislation include a bill enacted in Iowa that entirely defunds the Iowa Cultural Trust and several attempts in Minnesota designed to redirect resources from the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Iowa**

**H.B. 118 and S.F. 130—Defunding the Iowa Cultural Trust Fund**

**Status:** Enacted

**Summary:** This law transfers the $6.1 million principal of the Iowa Cultural Trust Fund—the interest of which underwrote two grant programs administered by the Iowa Arts Council—to the state's general fund.

**Indiana**

**S.B. 287—Creating the Indiana Arts Commission Arts Development Fund**

**Status:** In committee at session adjournment

**Summary:** This bill would have established the Indiana Arts Commission Arts Development Fund, supported by state taxes on liquor sales, which would have supported grants for counties, municipalities and other local jurisdictions.

**Maryland**

**H.B. 152—Allocating Admissions and Amusement Tax in Support of the Arts**

**Status:** Enacted

**Summary:** This law mandates that 5% of the revenue generated by the Maryland admissions and amusement tax on "electronic bingo and electronic tip jars" be split according to formula between the Maryland State Arts Council and the Special Fund for Preservation of Cultural Arts in Maryland.

**Minnesota**


**Status:** H.F. 707 enacted; H.F. 403, H.F. 698, H.F. 1862, H.F. 2152 and S.F. 1955 in committee at session recess

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Summary: These bills aimed, variously, to amend and to defund the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund, which underwrites Minnesota State Arts Board grants with dedicated sales tax revenue per the state's 2008 Legacy Amendment.

Nebraska
L.B. 331—Extending Authorization for Nebraska's Cultural Preservation Endowment
Status: Enacted
Summary: This law extends through 2028 the authorization of the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment, which generates income for the SAA-administered Nebraska Arts and Humanities Cash Fund.

Nebraska
L.B. 356 and L.B. 356A—Creating Civic Engagement Cash Fund for the Nebraska Arts Council
Status: In committee at session recess
Summary: These bills would have created a Civic Engagement Cash Fund for the Nebraska Arts Council and appropriated $150,000 to it for the purpose of awarding grants for "nonpartisan, nonprofit civic engagement projects."

PUBLIC ART
State arts agencies support public art to generate opportunities for artists, increase access to culture and enliven public spaces. The value of public art is reflected in the fact that 28 states and territories have a percent for art program, through which a small portion (typically 1%) of the capital costs of state-owned buildings is set aside to underwrite public art installations, curation and maintenance. Because most of these programs are statutorily created, they can be vulnerable to legislative challenges. This year, legislation in Arkansas, Connecticut and Iowa aimed to repeal percent for art policies. A bill enacted in New Mexico redirects funding reserved for percent for art projects, a bill in Oklahoma proposed a program moratorium and a bill in Washington called for a program review. At the same time, a Massachusetts bill seeks to launch a new percent for art program, and legislators in Michigan and Utah, respectively, introduced legislation that would provide a tax credit for donations of public art and would designate official state public artworks.

Arkansas
S.B. 419—Repealing the Arkansas Public Art Program
Status: Enacted
Summary: This law repeals the Arkansas Public Art Program, a statewide percent for art program that had been inactive for years.

Connecticut
S.B. 373—Repealing the Connecticut Art in Public Spaces Program
Status: In committee
**Summary:** This bill would repeal authorization for the Connecticut Art in Public Spaces program, thereby terminating it.

**Iowa**

*S.F. 516—Repealing the Iowa Art in State Buildings Program*

**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law repeals authorization for the Iowa Art in State Buildings program, thereby terminating it.

**Massachusetts**

*H. 2717, S. 1896 and S. 2076—Codifying Percent for Art Program and the Massachusetts Public Art Commission*

**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** These bills would codify a statewide percent for art program and its administrative body, the Massachusetts Public Art Commission, which have yet to launch though they were established via a 2014 executive order.

**Public Art and Percent for Art Resources**

NASAA's [Percent for Art State Policy Brief](#) succinctly summarizes the benefits and components of statewide percent for art programs.

For more information about individual states' programs, see NASAA's [Public Art page](#).

**Michigan**

*S.B. 406—Creating a Tax Credit for Donating or Supporting Public Art*

**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would create an income tax credit for donating public art to the state or a municipality, for contributing money to the State Art in Public Places Fund, or for giving public art or money to an art institution.

**New Mexico**

*S.B. 362—Reappropriating Money from the New Mexico Art in Public Places Fund*

**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law authorizes a withdrawal from the New Mexico Art in Public Places Fund, redirecting $300,000 to the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture in Santa Fe and $1.3 million to the State Museums Improvements and Exhibits Fund.

**Oklahoma**

*S.B. 296—Scheduling a Moratorium on the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Program*

**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have placed an automatic moratorium on the Oklahoma Art in Public Places program in any fiscal year in which total state revenues (as certified by the Board of Equalization) decline.

**Utah**

*H.B. 211 and S.B. 171—Designating "State Works of Art"*

**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** These laws designate Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" and Native American rock art as "state works of art."
Washington State

**Status:** H.B. 1075 and S.B. 5086 were engrossed (passed house and senate, respectively), and H.B. 2240, H.B. 2241, and S.B. 5981 were in committee at session recess  
**Summary:** These bills would have directed the Washington State Arts Commission to appoint a study group to review the operations of the Art in Public Places program and report annually about project administration and costs, among other things.

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**CULTURAL DISTRICTS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY**

With legislative support, state arts agencies can be a powerful driver of the creative economy, creative placemaking and community development efforts. To this end, in recent years a number of state legislatures have considered bills to encourage cultural districts, which are designated geographic areas that concentrate the presence and work of artists, arts organizations and other cultural institutions. This year, New York considered and Washington State enacted legislation to create statewide cultural district certification programs. Massachusetts introduced a bill that would create a "cultural corridor." Legislation in Indiana, Oklahoma and Virginia aimed to update or codify existing cultural district programs. Tax incentives are another effective way to spur creative economic development, which is the motivation behind bills in Connecticut, Georgia and Massachusetts. Restricting investment in the creative economy, unfortunately, is another possible legislative outcome and would have been the effect of a bill in New Mexico. The goal of legislation enacted in Nebraska and introduced in New Hampshire, meanwhile, is to facilitate cooperation among state agencies in support of the creative economy. Finally, a bill under consideration in Missouri aims to protect cultural assets by prohibiting the sales of counterfeit Native American art or craft.

**Connecticut**

**H.B. 6675**—Abating Property Taxes for Arts and Cultural Facilities  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would authorize municipalities to abate up to 100% of the property taxes due "for any property used for arts or culture."

**Georgia**

**H.B. 155** and **H.B. 196**—Creative Tax Incentives for Music Recording and Theatrical Productions  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** These laws create a tax exemption for income earned from music royalties and a tax credit benefiting music recording sessions and productions of plays and musicals.

**Indiana**

**S.B. 429**—Updating the Indiana Statewide Cultural District Program  
**Status:** Engrossed (passed senate) at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have updated the statewide cultural district program by adding new certification requirements, by requiring the annual review and quadrennial recertification of districts, and by allowing the allocation of revenue from local sales and income tax to cultural districts.

**Massachusetts**

**H. 3405**—Authorizing State Designation of "Cultural Corridors"  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would authorize the creation of state-designated "cultural corridors," which would be geographic routes with a "significant cluster of prominent cultural institutions" that drive local economies.
It also would task the Massachusetts Cultural Council with recommending economic development tools as well as revisions to state regulations that would spur development within them.

**Massachusetts**

H. 2590, H. 2591, H. 3311, H. 3316 and S. 1895—Creating Tax Benefits to Support the Arts and Creative Economy  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** These bills would create a tax credit for efforts to construct or renovate artist workspaces within state-certified cultural districts, a sales-tax exemption for "artisan" products sold within cultural districts, a separate a sales-tax exemption for "original works of art" sold anywhere in the state, and a tax credit for large theatre productions.

**Missouri**

H.B. 350—Prohibiting Counterfeit Native American Art or Craft  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would prohibit the sale, offer, trade or distribution of counterfeit Native American art or craft and impose a penalty for doing so ($25 - $200 fine and/or 30-90 days of imprisonment).

**Nebraska**

L.B. 222—Encouraging Collaboration between Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Tourism Commission  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This law directs the Nebraska Tourism Commission to coordinate and develop working partnerships with the Nebraska Arts Council and other state agencies.

**New Hampshire**

S.B. 112—Creating the New Hampshire Council on the Creative Economy  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have created the New Hampshire Council on the Creative Economy and tasked it with identifying ways to strengthen the state's creative economy and to coordinate cooperation among state agencies to that end.

**New Mexico**

H.B. 412—Inhibiting Investment of Local Economic Development Funds in Cultural Facilities and Districts  
**Status:** Engrossed (passed house) at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have rescinded the statute enabling regional and local governments to invest economic development funds in cultural facilities or cultural districts.

**New York**

A. 392 and S. 3108—Creating a Statewide Cultural District Program  
**Status:** A. 392 in committee and S. 3108 engrossed (passed senate)  
**Summary:** These bills would establish a statewide cultural district certification policy and charge the New York State Council on the Arts with creating and managing a cultural district program.

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**Creative Economy Resources**

NASAA has a number of creative economy resources, including facts and figures, an interactive dashboard for exploring arts employment data, a database of state-focused research, and a curated collection of creative placemaking literature.
Oklahoma
S.B. 534—Codifying the Oklahoma Cultural District Initiative
Status: In committee at session adjournment
Summary: This bill would have codified the Oklahoma Arts Council’s Cultural District Initiative—which, unlike many statewide cultural district programs, was not legislatively created—and created the Cultural Districts Initiative Revolving Fund.

Pennsylvania
H.B. 1676—Authorizing Local Taxation in Support of Cultural Districts
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would authorize municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to impose local property and income taxes to generate revenue for establishing and/or supporting “cultural improvement” districts.

Virginia
H.B. 1486—Enabling Intermunicipal Self-Designation of Cultural Districts
Status: Enacted
Summary: This law enables multiple localities to self-designate a cultural district within their collective geographic boundary.

Washington State
H.B. 1183—Creating a Statewide Cultural District Program
Status: Enacted
Summary: This law establishes a statewide cultural district certification policy and charges the Washington State Arts Commission with creating and managing a cultural district program that permits both local governments and “federally recognized Indian tribes” to apply for certification. (With this new program, there are now 15 statewide cultural district programs in the country.)

Wisconsin
A.B. 393 and S.B. 284—Authorizing a Creative Economy Development Grant Program
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would task the Wisconsin Arts Board with awarding creative economy development grants to nonprofits, local government agencies, businesses and business-development groups.

ARTS EDUCATION Return to TOC

Because education curricula, instructional standards, assessment practices and teacher licensing requirements are typically established by state legislatures, lawmakers have substantial influence over the quantity and quality of school based arts education. While differing philosophies about the role of government in education can be a point of legislative conflict, there were no bills this year that aimed to reduce opportunities for arts learning in the classroom. In fact, bills in three states—California, North Carolina and Oregon—shared the goal of strengthening arts education standards. Similarly, legislation in Colorado and New York would enhance efforts to assess the impact of arts education in public schools,
and a bill in California would ensure teachers and school administrators have access to arts related professional development. Meanwhile, bills in Illinois, Montana and New York aimed to fund arts education programs, and legislatures in Alabama, California and Pennsylvania passed resolutions proclaiming the value of arts learning.

**Alabama**

**H.J.R. 13—Proclaiming Arts Education Month**
Passed  
**Status:** Passed  
**Summary:** This resolution recognized March 2017 as Alabama’s Arts Education Month.

**California**

**A.B. 37—Arts Education Standards (Media Arts)**  
**Status:** Enrolled (passed assembly and senate)  
**Summary:** This bill would require the superintendent of public instruction to recommend content standards for the subject of media arts.

**California**

**S.B. 777—Professional Development for School Districts and County Boards of Education**  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would task the California Department of Education with providing arts related professional development to school districts and county boards of education.

**California**

**S.C.R. 24—Proclaiming Arts Education Month**  
**Status:** Passed  
**Summary:** This resolution recognized March 2017 as California’s Arts Education Month and encouraged elected officials to celebrate the arts by publicly engaging in arts education activities.

**Colorado**

**S.B. 107—Arts-Education Access Metric**  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have created a performance indicator for measuring access to arts education in public and public charter schools.

**Illinois**

**H.B. 3442 and H.B. 4046—Funding for After-School Arts, Community Arts and Art Therapy Programs**  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** These bills would expand grants for after-school arts, community arts and art therapy programs in low-income communities through designated appropriations of $50 million to the Illinois Arts Council Agency and $10 million to the Illinois State Board of Education.

**Montana**

**H.B. 167—Funding for Sustainable Community-School Arts Learning Partnerships**  
**Status:** Died in committee  
**Summary:** This bill would have appropriated $100,000 to the Montana Arts Council for grants designed to encourage school districts to develop sustainable community-school partnerships that foster arts learning.
**North Carolina**

**H.B. 97—Arts Education Graduation Requirement**  
**Status:** In committee at session recess  
**Summary:** This bill would have required students to earn one arts education credit between grades 6 and 12.

**New York**  

**A. 6075, S. 1428 and S. 3087—Arts Education Standards: Impact, Compliance and Revisions**  
**Status:** A. 6075 and S. 3087 in committee and S. 1428 engrossed (passed senate)  
**Summary:** These bills would create mechanisms for evaluating and revising the state's arts education standards.

**New York**  

**A. 7019—Allocating Lottery Revenue for Arts Education in Elementary and Secondary Schools**  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** The bill would create an arts-themed New York Lottery scratch-off ticket and allocate proceeds from it to elementary and secondary arts education.

**Oregon**  

**S.B. 313—Task Force on Equitable Access to Arts Education**  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** This bill would have created the Task Force on Equitable Access to Arts Education—to include one member representing the Oregon Arts Commission—which would have been tasked with addressing barriers to preK-12 arts learning; considering arts education standards and teacher licensure standards; and fostering coordination among teachers, school administrators and arts educators unaffiliated with public schools.

**Pennsylvania**  

**H.R. 150 and H.R. 182—Proclaiming Arts Education Week and STEAM Initiative Week**  
**Status:** Passed  
**Summary:** These resolutions designated, respectively, Pennsylvania's Arts in Education Week and Pennsylvania's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Week.

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  

A preponderance of evidence from recent research is deepening the body of knowledge about the health benefits of the arts. Several interrelated fields—creative aging, arts in health care, and arts and the military—are increasing their pace of development as their practitioners better understand how to harness the power of the arts to help people heal, grow and thrive. A number of state legislatures this year focused on ensuring the qualifications and skills of practicing art and music therapists. In addition, Hawai‘i considered for the second year in a row a bill that would fund an arts and military program to be managed by the SAA.
**Connecticut**

**H.B. 6252—Requiring the Licensure of Art Therapists**

**Status:** In committee

**Summary:** This bill would require the licensure of art therapists practicing in Connecticut.

**Florida**

**H.B. 55—Providing Veterans with "Alternative Treatment" for Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress**

**Status:** Died in committee

**Summary:** This bill would have required the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide "alternative treatment" options for veterans with a traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress.

**Florida**

**H.B. 729, S.B. 562 and S.B. 1752—Regulating Art and Music Therapy**

**Status:** Died in committee

**Summary:** These bills would have created mechanisms for regulating art and music therapy, including requirements and procedures for certification and licensure.

**Hawai‘i**

**H.B. 1223 and S.B. 608—Creating and Funding an Arts and Military Program**

**Status:** In committee at session adjournment

**Summary:** This bill would have directed the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to launch an arts and military program and appropriated funding to support it.

**Iowa**

**S.F. 85—Regulating Art Therapy**

**Status:** In committee at session recess

**Summary:** This bill would have established the parameters and process for licensing clinical art therapists and charged the Iowa Board of Behavioral Science with regulating art therapy.

**Missouri**

**H.B. 102 and H.B. 987—Certifying and Licensing Music Therapists**

**Status:** In committee

**Summary:** These bills would regulate music therapy, with one authorizing music therapists to be certified to provide services in elementary and secondary schools and the other requiring the licensure of music therapists.

**North Carolina**

**H.B. 192—Licensing Music Therapy**

**Status:** In committee at session recess

**Summary:** This bill would have required licensure for music therapists and set related regulations for music therapy.

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**Arts and Military Resources**

NASAA's [State Arts & Military Initiatives Strategy Sampler](#) reviews the existing policies, programs and partnerships SAAs and regional arts organizations employ to support military and veteran populations through the arts.

Through its [Creative Forces: Military Healing Arts Network](#), the National Endowment for the Arts is working with the U.S. Department of Defense and state arts agencies to integrate creative arts therapies into patient-centered care at 11 clinical sites located at military and veterans facilities around the country.

**Summary:** These bills would regulate music therapy, with one authorizing music therapists to be certified to provide services in elementary and secondary schools and the other requiring the licensure of music therapists.
Oregon
H.B. 2432—Regulating Art Therapy and Licensing Art Therapists
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill establishes regulations for art therapists, including the requirements and processes for licensure and certification.

SAA POLICY DIRECTIVES Return to TOC

State arts agencies largely design their programming in response to the needs and interests of their constituents as expressed through strategic planning surveys, community meetings, social media interactions and ongoing consultation. SAAs also are responsible, however, for implementing legislative policy directives when enacted. This year, there were several examples of policy directives designed to create new or evolve existing SAA programming. An Illinois bill would create a new grant category, while legislation enacted in Oregon will expand the reach of SAA grant making. A Massachusetts bill would recognize and encourage "inclusive design" in effort to increase the accessibility of cultural activities. Meanwhile, a resolution in Pennsylvania would aim to increase arts funding for underserved groups.

Illinois
H.B. 3704—Authorizing Grants for Public Broadcasting
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would authorize the Illinois Arts Council to award grants to public broadcasting programs.

Massachusetts
H. 2714—Recognizing Best Practices of Inclusive Design for Cultural Facilities and Programs
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would direct the Massachusetts Cultural Council to develop a certification program that recognizes best practices of "universal or inclusive design" incorporated by cultural facilities or cultural programming.

Oregon
H.B. 3139—Expanding the Reach of Oregon Arts Commission Grants
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill directs the Oregon Arts Commission to consider regional differences in access to arts when awarding grants and authorizes the agency to support "museum-related activities" such as exhibition curation, collection maintenance and museum education.

Pennsylvania
H.R. 400—Increasing Arts Funding for Rural, Multicultural, LGBT and Other Underserved Arts Groups
Status: In committee
Summary: This resolution would direct the legislature’s joint Budget and Finance Committee to encourage more funding opportunities for rural, multicultural, LGBT and other underserved arts groups by reviewing and recommending revisions to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts funding formula.

HONOR AND RECOGNITION Return to TOC

State legislatures pass resolutions to express opinions about a variety of issues, including the arts. While typically not binding vehicles for regulation or appropriations, resolutions nonetheless are useful indicators of the legislative climate and can serve to recognize and rally arts champions. In 2017, there were a number of resolutions—passed in Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Vermont—
honoring specific artists for receiving a governor’s arts award or similar state-endowed accolade. In addition, resolutions in Colorado and New Jersey express support for the National Endowment for the Arts, while a resolution in Virginia honors the SAA’s 50th anniversary and one in Vermont commends the SAA’s outgoing executive director.

**Alabama**

H.J.R. 19—Honoring Bicentennial Artist of the Year

**Status:** Enacted

**Summary:** This resolution posthumously names William Christenberry as Alabama’s Bicentennial Artist of the Year for 2017.

**Colorado**

S.J.M. 7—Supporting the NEA, NEH and IMLS

**Status:** In committee at session adjournment

**Summary:** This resolution would have declared support for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and encouraged Congress to continue their funding.

**New Jersey**

A.J.R. 141—Supporting the NEA

**Status:** In committee

**Summary:** This resolution would affirm the work of the National Endowment for the Arts and oppose proposals to defund it.

**South Carolina**

H.R. 4297—Congratulating the Recipient of the Governor’s Award for the Arts

**Status:** Passed

**Summary:** This resolution congratulates the recipient of the 2017 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award for the Arts.

**Tennessee**

S.R. 19—Honoring the Recipient of the 2017 Governor’s Arts Leadership Award

**Status:** Passed

**Summary:** This resolution honors the recipient of the 2017 Governor’s Arts Leadership Award.

**Texas**

H.R. 597 and H.R. 2131—Congratulating 2017 Texas Medal of Arts Award Recipients and 2017 State Artists

**Status:** Passed

**Summary:** These bills congratulate, respectively, the recipients of the 2017 Texas Medal of Arts Awards and the 2017 Texas State Artists.

**Vermont**

H.C.R. 14, H.C.R. 15 and H.C.R. 187—Congratulating Recipients of Margaret L. (Peggy) Kannenstine Award for Arts Advocacy, the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts

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**Governor's Arts Awards Resource**

NASAA's [Governor's Arts Awards Strategy Sampler](#) explores how SAAs celebrate their state’s arts and humanities luminaries. The paper summarizes the policy and programmatic factors of these initiatives, which recognize individual artists, arts managers, arts educators, creative economy leaders, arts organizations, stewards of folk traditions and cultural heritage, and other arts leaders.
Status: Passed
Summary: These resolutions congratulate, respectively, the 2016 recipients of the Margaret L. (Peggy) Kanneinstein Award for Arts Advocacy, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts.

Vermont
H.C.R. 112—Honoring Outgoing Vermont Arts Council Executive Director
Status: Passed
Summary: This resolution honors the outgoing executive director of the Vermont Arts Council, Alex Aldrich, for his leadership in supporting the arts.

Virginia
H.J.R. 1046 and S.R. 149—Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Commission on the Arts
Status: Passed
Summary: This resolution honors the Virginia Commission on the Arts on its 50th anniversary in 2018 and expresses the legislature's "admiration for the commission's work to cultivate enthusiasm for the fine arts in the Commonwealth."

FOR MORE INFORMATION Return to TOC

For more information, contact NASAA Research Manager Paul Pietsch, who authored this roundup in July 2017.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the nonpartisan membership organization that serves the nation's state arts agencies. NASAA helps state arts agencies fulfill their many citizen service roles by providing knowledge services, representation and leadership programs that strengthen the state arts agency community. NASAA also serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352 or visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

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