



Organized around NASAA's [strategic plan](#), this report highlights key accomplishments from October 2024 through September 2025. Actions since the Midyear Report issued in March are marked as "New."

GOAL 1: ADVOCATE FOR STATE ARTS AGENCIES.

- ▲ NASAA is focused every day on **protecting the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**. We engage directly with the administration and congressional leadership to advocate for the NEA and the entire field at a time when public funding is under increased scrutiny.
- NEW** • Following the White House's proposed elimination of the NEA and the cancellation of hundreds of NEA grants, **NASAA remained steadfast in fighting for federal and state arts resources**. In addition to urging Congress to renew NEA funds, NASAA communicated closely with members, placing national events in a strategic context to support their advocacy.
- NEW** • **New resources elevate the positive impact of the NEA**. The policy brief [The NEA and the States](#) details how the NEA/state arts agency (SAA) partnership is an exemplary intergovernmental collaboration that benefits every congressional district. The one-pager [Return on Investment: National Endowment for the Arts](#) offers powerful talking points on the impact of federal and state arts funding.
- ▲ **Keeping members informed** about the latest federal policy developments remains a high priority. We closely monitor executive orders, federal lawsuits, the activities of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, and congressional actions affecting state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and their constituents. Beyond these updates, we help members navigate the complexities and ambiguities of the current climate with trustworthy guidance on how they can respond.
- ▲ Guiding all NASAA's work with the Trump administration and Congress is a **fresh policy platform** designed to resonate across the political spectrum. [Strengthening America through Arts and Innovation: A Federal Policy Agenda](#) urges elected officials to sustain the arts as a means of fortifying America's economy, repairing the fabric of our communities and harnessing American ingenuity.

- ▲ NASAA polled members to learn about their involvement in **America 250** activities. We synthesized the data into a compelling narrative to demonstrate the leadership role SAAs are playing in this national initiative. As funding for the NEA is scrutinized, this effort is an important component of our advocacy work.
- NEW** ▲ NASAA **highlighted SAA involvement in America 250** by showcasing examples from Mississippi, Nevada and New Jersey in our [July newsletter](#).
- ▲ NASAA participated in numerous **briefings for state level advocates**, providing national context and sharing relevant research. This work supports advocates in making a strong, bipartisan case for support of their state arts agencies.
- ▲ As state legislative sessions and the 119th Congress got into full swing, we released an array of **new advocacy tools**. [The Arts as a Nonpartisan Issue](#), [The Arts and America's Bottom Line](#), and [Better Together: Public + Private Arts Funding](#) support arts leaders in making the case across the ideological landscape.
- ▲ NASAA tracked **state legislation** impacting state arts agencies and their constituents, identifying key bills and emerging policy trends. Insights were compiled and analyzed in the 2024 edition of our [State Legislative Roundup](#).
- ▲ Cultivating **strategic partnerships** is an ongoing priority. We have long-standing partnerships with many groups, including Grantmakers in the Arts, the Arts Education Partnership/Education Commission of the States, the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response, and Arts Engines. We also participated in the National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center technical working group, led by the NEA and the American Institutes for Research.
- NEW** ▲ At the invitation of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA), NASAA **submitted testimony** to the New Hampshire State Senate, urging lawmakers to preserve investments in the arts. Following a drastic reduction in funds, NASAA has been supporting NHSCA as it stabilizes and moves forward.

GOAL 2: HONE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES.

- ▲ NASAA is **on call for members**, responding to their needs in real time. We fulfilled more than **330** information requests. Popular topics included federal policy and funding, advocacy, SAA executive leadership, SAA grant making, and strategic planning. Each inquiry receives a customized response.
- NEW** ▲ In cooperation with the NEA, NASAA refreshed our [Creative Economy State Profiles](#) with new data on arts and cultural production, jobs and compensation. We also released new U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis numbers that quantify the economic footprint of the creative industries in each state.

▲ NASAA developed **new strategy samplers** on state level cross-sector partnerships in the areas of [Health and Community Well-Being](#), [Civic Infrastructure and Community Cohesion](#), and [Creative Rural Development](#). SAAs collaborate across sectors to bring the value of the arts to other areas of public service, and these new resources support and promote that work.

NEW

▲ NASAA updated its **state arts agency grant making and funding summary**. In addition, fact sheets were updated on [Arts Education](#), [Operating Support](#), [Individual Artists](#), [Local Arts Agencies](#) and [Rural Communities](#), as were our analyses of grants by [Percentage below Poverty](#), [Social Vulnerability](#) and [Organizational Size](#).

▲ As part of our **creative aging partnership** with E.A. Michelson Philanthropy (EAMP), December's [2024 Creative Aging Institute](#) provided members with professional development to inspire and inform. This [multiyear initiative](#) helps state arts agencies improve well-being, lifelong learning and social engagement for older adults.

NEW

- NASAA was awarded a new multiyear grant from EAMP to continue providing grants and opportunities for SAAs to advance their creative aging programs and practices.

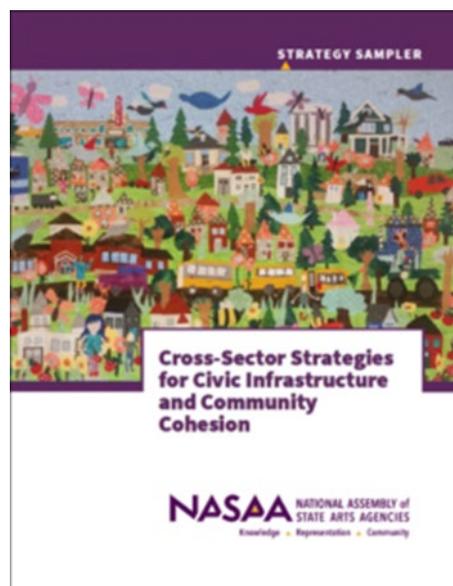
▲ The [NASAA Learning Series](#) offers **year-round virtual professional development** sessions for the entire state arts agency field. Topics have included SAA cross-sector strategies, arts and the military programs, and state ticketing legislation.

NEW

▲ The [Tribal Relations Training Series](#) provides a unique professional development opportunity to help SAAs learn about Native cultures and tribal relations. This four-part series launched in August and offers an introduction to the unique status of Native nations, the multifaceted policy relationships between tribes and government, and the lived experiences of Native peoples.

▲ NASAA and the NEA launched **new arts and health professional learning communities** for SAAs and regional arts organizations (RAOs). Whether agencies are exploring arts and health approaches for the first time or have long-established programs, these voluntary communities are a place to learn and connect. The group has convened six times so far.

▲ Our newsletter column State to State profiles **innovative initiatives from state arts agencies**. We've showcased 26 unique programs this year, including the [A+ Schools](#) model in North Carolina and Missouri, the [Kentucky Crafted](#) initiative, and Alaska's [Arts, Health and Well-Being](#) program.



- ▲ [NASAA Assembly 2024](#)**M** offered sessions on timely topics and networking opportunities for SAA job-alike peers and colleagues from the NEA. The nearly 500 attendees experienced the flourishing arts and culture of Puerto Rico through performances and community excursions. This was the most highly attended and rated Assembly to date! It included Professional Development Institutes for arts education and folk and traditional arts staff, as well as preconferences for community development and accessibility coordinators. (**M** = NASAA member-only content)



- ▲ NASAA issued its [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2025](#) report summarizing **state arts agency budgets**. Accompanying the report is a suite of [interactive visualizations](#) exploring FY2025 revenue data.
- ▲ NASAA completed work in collaboration with the NEA to sunset the [National Standard for Arts Information Exchange](#). A new report details the long-term influence of the National Standard, which enabled the standardization of NEA, SAA and RAO data. NEA Partnership Final Descriptive Report requirements remain in place, and new mechanisms will be developed to obtain field input.
- NEW** ▲ NASAA provided **technical assistance** to numerous SAAs. We conducted an in-depth grants analysis for Oklahoma and administered a strategic planning survey for North Dakota. Work on a grants analysis for Delaware and a strategic planning survey for Iowa is underway.

GOAL 3: CONNECT STATE ARTS AGENCIES.

- ▲ **NASAA increased communications** to help members understand and respond to developments in Washington. Federal updates, alerts and issue briefs keep members up to date and provide guidance on useful actions they can take. NASAA also responds to questions and initiates communications via our listservs, tailoring information to the concerns of job-alike groups.
- ▲ NASAA continues its robust support of **job-alike peer groups**, providing opportunities for groups to meet more frequently than ever before. In addition to convening at the Assembly, there have been more than **50** virtual meetings this fiscal year. In times of uncertainty, the opportunity to connect with peers is especially valued, and NASAA is pleased to help facilitate these conversations.
- NEW** ▲ Planning for the **2025 Executive Forum** is underway. This leadership convening focuses on executive and deputy directors, and will provide opportunities for in-depth, professionally facilitated dialogue about the most pressing issues facing state arts agencies. The forum will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, and will feature a highly participatory and member-directed agenda.
- NEW** ▲ The **2025 State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers Professional Development Institute** took place in Des Moines, Iowa, in September. Leaders participated in a range of professional development activities at community venues that demonstrated innovative arts education programming.

