NASAA STRATEGIC PLAN

SUBJECT TO MEMBER RATIFICATION OCTOBER 2017





National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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NASAA STRATEGIC PLAN

Demographic, political and economic changes are reshaping the state arts agency landscape. Some state arts agencies have endured harsh cuts in recent years, others have grown. While some in our field have long, proud careers in public service, many new leaders are infusing the state arts agency profession with fresh perspectives and diverse talents. American society is made stronger by the emergence of new demographic majorities, even as our nation aches from acute political and economic divides. Old assumptions about how we define, create and fund the arts are dissolving, but fundamental questions remain about how our nation can best empower and sustain artists and arts organizations.

CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCY

In light of these shifts, every state arts agency has reasserted its value, defining the contributions it makes to public life and exploring new ways of doing business. No two states' solutions to these challenges look exactly alike, a testimony to the creativity and resiliency of the state arts agency field.

As we mark our 50th anniversary, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) must rise to these same challenges. We must address new trends and clarify how we can achieve the greatest impact for our members. While building on a legacy of accomplishment, we must pursue changes that position our Assembly and state arts agencies to thrive in the future.

This strategic plan reflects a fresh examination of NASAA's role. It is infused with high-caliber advice from members, as well as ideas and wise counsel from leaders in other sectors. It distills how we will workin collaboration with our members and partners—to advance state leadership for the arts in America.

NASAA is committed to a future in which every state and jurisdiction achieves its fullest potential in and through the arts.





RETURN ON INVESTMENT: THE EVIDENCE

Rigorous research documents the public value delivered by the arts and state arts agencies. Review the latest findings:

- economic impacts
- educational impacts
- health impacts
- o civic impacts

NASAA's policy brief, **Why Should Government** Support the Arts? puts all the evidence at your fingertips.

OUR WORK **MATTERS**

NASAA is the professional association of the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies. The arts are fundamental to human expression and are an essential ingredient in the well-being and prosperity of our nation's individuals, communities and families. Together, NASAA and the state arts agencies advance the arts.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES NEED THE ARTS.

The arts foster vibrant communities and create desirable and productive places for people to live, work, play and raise their families.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY NEEDS THE ARTS.

The arts put people to work, produce tax revenue, stimulate business and retain a talented work force. The arts are an especially powerful ladder to economic independence for rural regions, urban areas and communities struggling out of poverty.

AMERICA'S CHILDREN NEED THE ARTS.

The arts ignite young imaginations and boost achievement in academic fundamentals. Education that includes the arts teaches the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to success in school, in the workplace and in life.

AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY NEEDS THE ARTS.

The arts support a strong democracy, engaging us in civic discourse and bridging divides among us.

AMERICA'S WELL-BEING NEEDS THE ARTS.

The arts foster physical, mental and emotional health. Arts-integrated medical treatments are especially effective for aging adults, pediatric patients and military personnel.

AMERICA'S HERITAGE IS EMBODIED IN THE ARTS.

The arts preserve our legacies and our roots, passing along our nation's unique character and traditions to future generations. Through the arts, we express who we are as a nation, and who we aspire to become.

AMERICAN INGENUITY IS DRIVEN BY THE ARTS.

The arts deepen our nation's creative capacity, fueling innovation that gives businesses a competitive edge and helps communities resolve complex problems.

AMERICA'S SPIRIT NEEDS THE ARTS.

Intrinsic to the arts is the power to uplift us and help us perceive things in new ways. In the face of economic hardship, natural disasters, civic unrest and other adversity, the arts are a force for recovery, understanding and healing.

The public sector ensures that these benefits accrue to all communities, regardless of wealth or geography. To this end, NASAA is committed to a future in which every U.S. state and jurisdiction achieves its fullest potential in and through the arts.

STATE ARTS AGENCIES **GET THE JOB DONE**

State arts agencies are assets to government because they:

- make the arts available everywhere
- o engage the public in decision making
- o instill accountability and good management practices among grantees
- uphold equitable funding practices
- leverage additional investments from public and private sources
- model efficiency and transparency in their stewardship of public dollars
- lead cross-sector partnerships within and outside of government
- ontribute to a distinctive state identity





AGENCIES

NASAA EMPOWERS THE WORK OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES THROUGH:

REPRESENTATION

NASAA is a champion and advocate for state arts agencies, asserting the importance of the arts to government leaders. We shape public arts agencies' work. policy, foster multisector support for the arts and give state arts agencies a persuasive voice in influential national networks.

KNOWLEDGE

NASAA provides authoritative data that fuels fact based decision making and highlights the impact of state NASAA's research also drives the evolution of evidence based answers to the question of why government should support the arts. Our knowledge services inform and inspire state arts agencies, driving excellence and sparking new ways of working.

COMMUNITY

NASAA convenes and connects state arts agencies. Our professional community energizes the work of state arts agencies, unites our members around common goals and builds a shared vision for the future.

> NASAA amplifies the expertise, influence, funding and vision that state arts agencies employ on behalf of every American. Through NASAA, state arts agencies achieve more together than they can alone.

VALUES

America's diversity enriches and strengthens our nation. NASAA and the state arts agencies recognize that diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental to a strong democracy. The public sector has an important role to play in ensuring that all communities thrive through the arts. To this end, NASAA's action plans articulate specific steps we take each year to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in state arts agency policies, practices and programs as well as in our own governance, management and services.

NASAA's work is further guided by these enduring values:

SERVICE

NASAA programs are timely, relevant and responsive to the needs of members. Because every state and jurisdiction is unique, NASAA tailors our services to the needs of each member agency.

CREDIBILITY

Factual accuracy and bipartisanship are hallmarks of NASAA's work.

EXCELLENCE

NASAA is recognized for the high caliber, creativity and professionalism of our services. We exemplify good stewardship of public resources and rigorous evaluation spurs continual improvement.

COLLABORATION

Partnerships broaden understanding of our impact and build communities of support for our work.



DIVERSITY

Recognizing all dimensions of human identity and difference.

EQUITY

Implementing policies and practices without bias, allowing all people to realize fair and just engagement, treatment, benefits and opportunities.

INCLUSION

Engaging diverse individuals, communities and perspectives to ensure access, representation and belonging for all.

The arts are fundamental to human expression and are essential to the well-being and prosperity of our nation.



By developing policy resources and relationships that advance state arts agencies, NASAA ensures that the arts play a central role in American public life and that all communities have equitable access to the arts.

OBJECTIVES

- A Advocate for a robust and well-funded National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
- **B** Develop other federal resources and relationships beneficial to state arts agencies.
- C Strengthen state level advocacy practices.
- D Foster cross-sector support and strategic partnerships to benefit state arts agencies.



HONE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES

State arts agencies need savvy and agile leaders capable of solving immediate problems while also driving the long-term evolution of their agencies. NASAA helps our members rise to those challenges. NASAA's knowledge services lead state arts agencies to exemplify what government can do right and to demonstrate a compelling return on the public's investment.

OBJECTIVES

- A Supply authoritative facts about state arts agencies.
- B Catalyze state arts agency innovation, improvement and change.
- C Facilitate members' use of information for planning, decision making and case making.
- Deliver educational programs that boost members' knowledge and leadership skills.





CONNECT STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Our Assembly is an inclusive, welcoming community where members learn from each other, co-create a shared history and find common purpose. Connecting through NASAA yields tangible policy results for members: it empowers our decisions, increases our influence and defines NASAA's credibility as a representative policy voice.

OBJECTIVES

- A Keep state arts agencies informed through timely, relevant and accessible communications.
- B Facilitate peer-to-peer networking.
- C Promote the understanding and use of NASAA services.
- D Engage members in the governance, planning and advocacy work of the Assembly.



BUILD NASAA'S CAPACITY

To strengthen state arts agencies now and into the future, NASAA must achieve the financial and operational capacity to meet our members' escalating demands for services. Fulfilling these objectives supports the attainment of all NASAA goals.

OBJECTIVES

- A Develop and diversify NASAA's revenues.
- B Develop NASAA's human resources.
- (C) Improve NASAA's operations and technology.
- D Evaluate our work and learn from the results.







TOGETHER

State arts agencies are NASAA's primary stakeholders, volunteers, advisors and ambassadors. Most importantly, state arts agencies are the owners of this Assembly, its originators, leaders and investors. State arts agencies created NASAA in 1968, and still count on their Assembly today to expand their knowledge and influence. Members share an equal stake in the goals of this plan—and share equal responsibility for building an association to achieve them. NASAA issues calls to action throughout the year and we urge state arts agencies' full engagement in that work.

BETTER Together

Collaborations beyond the state arts agency field are integral to NASAA's success, and to the success of state arts agencies, themselves. NASAA's annual action plan identifies specific collaborations that help us attain our objectives in any given year. Some relationships have perennial importance. These national partners include:

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

NASAA represents state arts agencies with the NEA and fosters program and policy collaborations between the NEA and its state partners.

STATE POLICY NETWORKS

NASAA connects with national organizations that shape the knowledge and actions of state policymakers. Through these networks, NASAA helps governors, legislators and other public officials understand the value of the arts and state arts agencies—and we bring important cross-sector insights back into our own field.

CULTURAL ADVOCACY GROUP (CAG)

This alliance of national arts organizations, which includes Americans for the Arts, does the all-important work of ensuring that Congress hears a unified message from the arts community.

REGIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (RAOS)

NASAA advocates for NEA funds that support the work of RAOs as well as NASAA and state arts agencies. We meet regularly with RAO leaders to identify shared interests and to synchronize efforts that benefit state arts agencies.

ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (AEP)

NASAA is part of the leadership team for AEP, operated by the Education Commission of the States in cooperation with the NEA and the U.S. Department of Education.

State arts agencies also are strengthened by numerous state and local allies. NASAA serves as a resource to citizen advocacy organizations, philanthropic partners, public agencies and civic groups who work in concert with state arts agencies to advance the arts.

Citizen advocacy organizations, philanthropic partners, public agencies and civic groups work in concert with state arts agencies to advance the arts.



STAYING CURRENT

NASAA planning is evergreen—it is continually renewed and never stands still. We do this by combining strategic plans and action plans.

Our strategic plan (this document) charts NASAA's overall course. It sets forth our purpose, our long-range goals and the principles that guide our work. Annual action plans and budgets itemize the near-term steps we take to achieve our long-term goals. This tandem approach ensures that NASAA's day-to-day priorities align with our strategic vision.

Although the strategic plan has no expiration date, it is regularly assessed for relevance. The standard review interval is three years, but the board initiates a planning cycle sooner if needed.

Annual action plans ensure the dynamic currency of NASAA's work, helping us address new realities, opportunities or constraints. We invite input from every state and jurisdiction through an annual interview process, and a membership vote is required to approve the action plan.

WHY AN EVERGREEN PLAN?

- NASAA conducts a miniature planning process every year, through rigorous and member-driven action planning. This keeps us in step with rapidly changing conditions.
- We initiate a full strategic planning cycle when we anticipate significant environmental shifts.
- By conducting comprehensive planning judiciously, NASAA spends less time planning to serve members and more time serving them.



EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

In keeping with our evergreen approach, planning at NASAA does not end when the planning documents are approved. Rigorous measurement practices—which are fully transparent to members—continually refine our aim and improve our performance.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORTING

Twice annually NASAA issues
Action Plan Highlights that itemize
progress made toward our activity
targets. These reports show what
we've done to advance each goal
and objective in our plan, ensuring
the strategic alignment of our work.

FIELD INDICATORS

In conjunction with this strategic plan, NASAA is adopting a set of new strategic indicators of state arts agency strength and capacity. These State Arts Agency Vital Statistics help state arts agencies and NASAA to track progress toward long-term outcomes relating to the stability and growth of our field as well as NASAA's success in attaining our mission of strengthening state arts agencies.

PERFORMANCE METRICS

NASAA monitors a robust suite of operational performance metrics. Expanded in conjunction with this plan, the targets are informed by best practices among professional associations. Under the direction of NASAA's Planning & Budget Committee, the vital statistics and the performance measurement dashboard are used together to inform annual action planning.

DATA MINING

We draw on website analytics, chart our social media reach, track e-mail action rates and collect extensive data about information requests and member engagement. This active data mining informs action planning and provides real-time intelligence that NASAA uses to adjust tactics to address member needs.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

NASAA uses annual member interviews and periodic polls to identify our most and least successful services and get suggestions for improvement. We also conduct evaluations, using the results to guide future programs. Key questions are asked on a longitudinal basis to help us gauge changes over time.

DIALOGUE

We talk with—and *listen* to—members every day. Our annual <u>nominating</u> interviews ask every executive director and council chair to weigh in on their satisfaction with NASAA services, unmet needs and suggestions for the future. Combined with parallel discussions among our five standing committees and NASAA's board, these feedback channels form a human chain of qualitative data driving ongoing improvement.



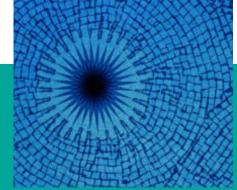




OUR PLANNING PROCESS

This plan was formulated through an inclusive process designed to reshape our long-range goals, reach out to new stakeholders and surface insights that will help NASAA be smart in our day-to-day work. The participatory process was led by NASAA's Planning & Budget Committee. We used a mix of methods to invite candid, diverse opinions and make sure every voice was heard.





SHAPING THE FUTURE

FUTURE FORECASTING

As a first step in planning, we engaged the full membership in a dialogue about the future of our field. Our board focused on salient trends affecting the success of state arts agencies. We also examined expert analyses of longrange trends reshaping the future of state government, the arts and professional associations.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

<u>Staff</u> and <u>board</u> appraised strengths and weaknesses and considered what needs to change for both state arts agencies and NASAA.

MEMBER INPUT

Because state arts agencies are NASAA's primary stakeholders, member input was a keystone of our process. We conducted 84 member interviews, received 143 responses to our membership opinion poll, and engaged 29 board and committee members (representing more than half of our member agencies) in developing plan drafts.

CROSS-SECTOR PERSPECTIVES

We cast a wide net, reaching far beyond our membership to engage 83 outside advisors in our process. We conducted 51 interviews (a mix of phone and face-to-face) with people representing the fields of economic development, government innovation, creative placemaking, community development, education, health care, agriculture and philanthropy as well as the arts. Face-to-face forums with associations serving state government, regional arts organizations and national arts service networks reinforced key relationships—and built new ties for the future.

DATA ANALYSIS

We analyzed 3,716 member information requests, conducted a website user survey and conducted a statistical benchmarking study comparing NASAA to 41 other associations serving state government or the arts. To inform future fundraising and revenue diversification, we evaluated the success of NASAA's past annual fund campaigns and conducted in-depth prospect research to identify foundations that may be likely candidates for support of our new plan.

THIRD-PARTY OBJECTIVITY

To ensure an unbiased assessment (and to expedite the work), NASAA engaged a consulting team to lead portions of our planning process.

Artistic Logistics conducted interviews, facilitated forums and reality-checked our conclusions.

DRAFT REVIEWS

Members, nonmember planning informants and independent consultants offered revisions to the plan in draft form.

TRANSPARENCY

NASAA established a publicly accessible strategic planning hub on our website to share our findings and invite ongoing input.

The adoption of this strategic plan represents the beginning—not the end—of a process. Together, state arts agencies, NASAA and our partners will work to sustain the arts as an asset for individuals, families communities and state governments across America. We invite you to join us.

LISTENING TO DIVERSE VOICES

84

MEMBER Interviews

29

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS ENGAGED

143

RESPONSES TO OUR OPINION POLL

03

OUTSIDE ADVISORS Engaged



^{*}Includes informants from the field of government innovation, education, health care, economic development, rural development, community development and philanthropy.

ASSESSMENT OUTREACH

FORMULATION

SUMMER 2016 – FALL 2016



WINTER 2017 - SPRING 2017 >



SPRING 2017-FALL 2017



- Data review
- Trend scans
- Benchmarking



- Interviews
- Forums
- Dialogues
- Member poll



Reflect on insights



- Board guidance
- Forecasting
- Self-evaluation



- Arts & non-arts
- Diverse voices



- Draft strategic plan
- Develop action plans
- Build budgets



- Inquiry design
- Outreach mapping



- In person
- On-line
- Via telephone



- Share drafts
- Invite feedback
- Revise drafts

3./lb



PENDING

Membership Vote October 13, 2017 Portland, Oregon

MEMBER INFORMATION REQUESTS ANALYZED

STATISTICAL BENCHMARK **COMPARISONS**

THANKS!

NASAA is deeply grateful to the many individuals and colleague organizations who contributed their expertise, ideas and volunteer time to the creation of this plan.



NASAA Planning & Budget Committee

Ken May (SC)
2017 NASAA Treasurer

Todd Lowe (KY)
2016 NASAA Treasurer

Ben Brown (AK)
2017 NASAA 1st Vice President

Theresa Colvin (Mid Atlantic)
Stephanie Conner (TN)
Monica Guzman (GU)
Randy Rosenbaum (RI)
Amber Sharples (OK)
John Strickland (WV)

State Arts Agencies

Alabama State Council on the Arts

Alaska State Council on the Arts

Arizona Commission on the Arts

Arkansas Arts Council
California Arts Council

Colorado Creative Industries Connecticut Office of the Arts

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Delaware Division of the Arts

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs

Georgia Council for the Arts

Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency

Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Idaho Commission on the Arts

Illinois Arts Council Agency Indiana Arts Commission

Iowa Arts Council

Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission

Kentucky Arts Council

Louisiana Division of the Arts Maine Arts Commission Maryland State Arts Council

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs

Minnesota State Arts Board

Mississippi Arts Commission

Missouri Arts Council

Montana Arts Council

Nebraska Arts Council

Nevada Arts Council

Nevada Arts Council

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

New Jersey State Council on the Arts

New Mexico Arts

New York State Council on the Arts

North Carolina Arts Council

North Dakota Council on the Arts

Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture

Ohio Arts Council

Oklahoma Arts Council

Oregon Arts Commission

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

South Carolina Arts Commission

South Dakota Arts Council

Tennessee Arts Commission

Texas Commission on the Arts

Utah Division of Arts & Museums

Vermont Arts Council

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Washington State Arts Commission

West Virginia Commission on the Arts

Wisconsin Arts Board Wyoming Arts Council

THANKS!

Cross-Sector Perspectives

Jeremy Anderson, Education Commission on the States

Elizabeth Armstrong, National Association of Government Communicators

Mike Bartlett, National Governors Association

Jen Bokoff, Foundation Center/Grant Craft

Kelly Brown, D5 Coalition

John Brown, Windgate Foundation

Corina Eckl, National Conference of State Legislatures

Charles Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute

Michael Fraser, Assoc. of State and Territorial Health Officials

Barbara P. Glenn, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Erik Hein, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

Doug Herbert, U.S. Department of Education

Maria Rosario Jackson, Kresge Foundation

Paula Kerger, PBS

Jeremy Liu, Policy Link

Esther Mackintosh, Federation of State Humanities Councils

Ann Markusen, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Robert McNulty, Partners for Livable Communities

Julie Palkowski, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Arturo Pérez, National Conference of State Legislatures

Lori Pourier, First Peoples Fund Bob Reeder, Rural LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Ron Regan, Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Beth Simone Noveck, Gov Lab Center for Government Innovation

Molly Theobald, Appalachian Regional Commission

Margy Waller, Topos Partnership San San Wong, Barr Foundation

Cultural Leadership & Advocacy Perspectives

Jamie Bennett, ArtPlace

Alan Brown, WolfBrown

Janet Brown, Grantmakers in the Arts

Randy Cohen, Americans for the Arts

María López De León, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures

Mario Garcia Durham, Association of Performing Arts Professionals

Aaron Dworkin, University of Michigan

Guillermina Gonzalez, Delaware Arts Alliance

Heather Ikemire, National Guild for Community Arts Education

Grace Kewl-Durfey, The Association of American Cultures/Broward Cultural Division

Sherron Long, Florida Cultural Alliance

Bob Lynch, Americans for the Arts

Liz Merritt, Association of American Museums/Center for the Future of Museums

Ann Marie Miller, ArtPride New Jersey

lan David Moss, Createquity/ Fractured Atlas

Betty Plumb, South Carolina Arts Arts Advocate

Jeff Poulin, Americans for the Arts

Molly Pratt, Tennesseans for the Arts

Bruce Richardson, University of Wyoming Barbara Robinson, Former NASAA President

Jesse Rosen, League of American Orchestras

John Schratwieser, Maryland Citizens for the Arts/Kent County Arts Council

Barbara Shaffer Bacon, Animating Democracy

Betty Siegel, Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability at the Kennedy Center

Richard Stein, Californians for the Arts/California Arts Advocates

Steven Tepper, Arizona State University

Carlton Turner, Alternate Roots

Beth Tuttle, DataArts

Zannie Giraud Voss, National Center for Arts Research

Laura Zabel, Springboard for the Arts

Regional Arts Organizations

Alan Cooper, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Cathy Edwards, New England Foundation for the Arts

David Fraher, Arts Midwest

Anthony Radich, Western States Arts Federation

Mary Margaret Schoenfeld, US Regional Arts Organizations

Todd Stein, Mid-America Arts Alliance

Suzette Surkamer, South Arts

National Arts Service Organizations

Alternate ROOTS

American Alliance of Museums

American Composers Forum

Americans for the Arts

Association of Art Museum Directors

Association of Performing Arts Professionals

Chamber Music America

Chorus America

DancelUSA

Future of Music Coalition

League of American Orchestras

Local Learning

National Alliance for Musical Theatre

National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures

National Council for the Traditional Arts

Network Theatre Ensemble

New Music USA

OPERA America

Performing Arts Alliance

The Recording Academy

Theatre Communications Group

Artistic Logistics

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Kathie deNobriga

MK Wegmann

Design

KINETIK, Inc., Washington, DC

Photography

Cover | Courtesy of the California Arts Council and Colorado Creative Industries

Page 2 | Courtesy of the California Arts Council

Page 3 | Courtesy of the California Arts Council

Page 4 | Top: Axis Dance Company, photo by Andrea Basile Bottom: The Verdant Walk, North Design Office, photo by Ryan DiVita courtesy of the LAND studio

Page 6 | Ercilia Brazil at Española Valley Fiber Arts Center, photo by Diane Bowman

Page 7 | Native American Drum and Dance Ensemble, photo by Chad Coppess courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Tourism

Page 8 | Top: Musician Frédéric Yonnet, photo by Eddie Arrossi Bottom: Arizona Art Tank, Arizona Commission on the Arts

Page 10 | Photo courtesy of Sheila Smith, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts

Page 11 | Musician Desmond Mason, courtesy of the Oklahoma Gazette

Page 12 | Top: Brady Arts District mural, courtesy of the Tulsa Convention & Visitors Bureau Bottom: "Pink Canyon" by Sonja Frey, courtesy of the Delaware Division of the Arts

Page 14 | Left: Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, photo by George Long Right: Tony Feher installation detail, Utah Museum of Fine Arts

Page 17 I "King Salmon," sculpture and photo by Ray Troll, photo courtesy of the Alaska State Council on the Arts

