



## Report to Councils September 2018

NASAA created Report to Councils more than 10 years ago to help arts advocates and civic leaders like you stay on top of issues and research affecting public funding for the arts. Share it at your next council meeting—and contact Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#) to be sure you don't miss an issue!

### NASAA Assembly 2018: What's in It for You

If you're concerned about the role of your state arts agency in a polarized political climate, or want to enhance grant-making equity in your state, or would like to learn ways to help older adults access the arts, or are curious about new data from the National Governors Association on how the arts drive rural prosperity—you need to join us at [NASAA Assembly 2018!](#)



This year we are in Baltimore, Maryland, November 1-3 for a [schedule](#) brimming with sizzling issues relevant to state arts agency council members and staff.

The NASAA Assembly 2018 Opening Reception and NASAA 50th Anniversary Celebration takes place at the one-of-a-kind [American Visionary Arts Museum](#). Photo of the museum's mosaic wall (detail) by Dennis Crews

[Featured speakers](#) include Christopher Bedford of the Baltimore Museum of Art, who speaks on enhancing relevance for cultural institutions; and Antoine Hunter, sharing his story of perseverance and achievement as a deaf African-American dancer. At a [special session for council members and chairs](#), hear from the acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts before discussing a number of timely peer-curated topics. We've also planned some fascinating [artist](#) experiences, along with excursions to three local Arts & Entertainment Districts. [Reserve your hotel room](#) at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor **by September 28** for the best rate, and be sure to [register](#). We'll see you in Baltimore!

### Thank you to our NASAA Assembly 2018 Supporters



## Call for Applications: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship Program

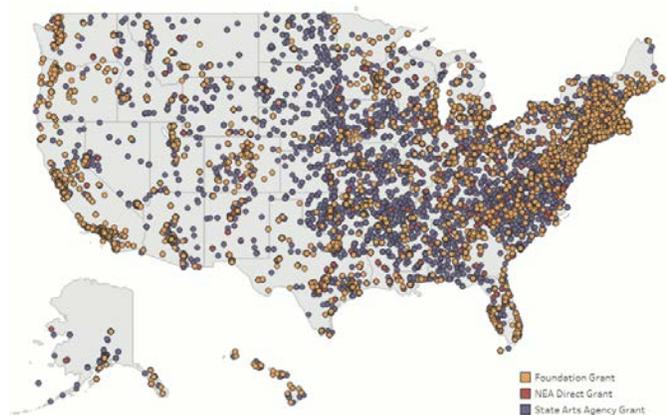
The public sector has a special role to play in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in arts programs, policies and practices. [NASAA DEI policy](#) outlines both our vision for advancing policies that remove barriers to DEI and our commitment to a culture that supports these values. Since 2015 we have documented [our DEI activities](#).

In addition to these resources, NASAA recently launched the NASAA Affinity Group for People of Color and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship Program for people of color at state arts agencies. The DEI Mentorship Program is a way to provide professional development for our members of color as they enter, sustain and advance into middle and executive management careers in state arts agencies, as well as to ensure equity and inclusion of people of color within the NASAA family. NASAA invites all interested state arts agency council members, as well as executive and deputy directors, to volunteer as mentors. Visit our website to [learn more](#). We encourage you to [apply by November 12](#) to be a DEI mentor or mentee. Questions? Contact DEI Mentorship Program co-coordinators [Connie Souto-Learman](#) or [Susan Oetgen](#) to sign up for informational calls on October 2 or 5.

## Research You Can Use

Two new NASAA resources offer the latest look at public arts funding. NASAA's [State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview, Fiscal Year 2019](#), forecasts each state's funding for the arts in the upcoming year. A precursor to a lengthier report coming this winter, the Preview offers an overview of the state budget climate, projected appropriations to state arts agencies and expected per capita expenditures by state.

Get a sense of the cultural ecosystem's monetary drivers in [Better Together: Public and Private Arts Investment](#). This NASAA resource compares the two forms of investment and notes the singular value of public funding for the arts. It handily refutes the argument: Can't the arts be funded by private sources alone?



## 2018 State Legislative Sessions and the Arts

Every year, NASAA carefully monitors state arts legislation pertinent to state arts agencies and their constituencies, summarizing the most important bills in our [State Legislative Roundup](#). The 2018 edition highlights more than 60 bills. New this year is a longitudinal analysis of cultural policy trends in state legislation since 2015. Review this summary to enhance your knowledge of how state lawmakers can shape arts policy.

### NASAA Leadership Awards

We're looking forward to celebrating the winners of this year's NASAA Leadership Awards at NASAA Assembly 2018. To honor the important work you do in your communities, NASAA's Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes a volunteer whose outstanding service and leadership significantly impact public support for the arts in his or her state. Look for an announcement soon!