



Executive Directors Peer Session November 1, 2018

Notes

Executive Directors Peer Session coordinators:

[Karen Hanan](#), Executive Director, Washington State Arts Commission

[Malcolm White](#), Executive Director, Mississippi Arts Commission

Pam Breaux welcomed everyone, noting that NASAA is a forum—and the Executive Director (ED) peer group is a special space—where our professional community can speak candidly with one another, receive affirmation and reality checks, discuss state arts agencies' (SAAs) relevance beyond grants, share resources, and evaluate current challenges. We are strongest as a collective field when each of our agencies is strong individually! Pam encouraged the group to make the most of its time together.

Due to length of peer session, cochairs Karen Hanan and Malcolm White focused on collectively thinking about SAAs being relevant beyond grant making. They provided instructions about an exercise in this regard:

- Your governor has just given you \$800,000 to invest in the arts, but you cannot use the money on grants. How will you spend it? Think outside the box! Smash the box!

Seven small groups (preassigned to ensure a diversity of perspectives and experiences) discussed the theme of relevance beyond grant making, offering a variety of ideas and observations in response to the question.

Group 1

- Technology, including infrastructure and software development/purchase
- Diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion
- Equity plan to arts organizations
- Mental health initiative for artists
- Study on existing arts education programs'/projects' impact
- Work to prevent opioid addiction
- Arts and arts programs impact study

Group 2

- Research
- Capacity building for individuals

- Community level consultancies
- Regional residencies
- Cultural districts
- Cross-platform partnership with non-arts organizations
- Live-work spaces for artists

Group 3

- Non-arts related liaisons to support arts and fundraising initiatives
- Creative communities
- Research and data collection to better share their story
- Outreach
- Emergency funds
- Create a new endowment

Group 4

- Real estate investment
- Sustainable and long-term creative economy with community buy-in
- New staff members (arts ambassadors)
- Research and long-term studies to evaluate impact of programs
- Student engagement
- Arts districts

Group 5

- Facilitators
- Economic impact studies
- Arts education
- Art in public spaces
- Diversity, equity and inclusion work
- Arts and military partnership
- Arts and tourism partnership

Group 6

- Cash flow consultancy work
- Arts managers across the state
- New grants management system
- Arts programs in rural communities

Group 7

- Technology
- Military partnership/programs
- Grant management system
- Research with imprisoned community
- Arts restoration funds
- Diversity, equity and inclusion integration
- Multistate cohort
- Tour for local artists
- Massive accessibility investment, internal and external

Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education Next Steps by the National Endowment for the Arts

NEA Presenters:

- Ayanna Hudson, Arts Education Director, National Endowment for the Arts
- Sunil Iyengar, Director, Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
- Claus von Zastrow, Principal, Statewide Longitudinal Database Project, Education Commission of the States

Ayanna, Sunil and Claus gave a briefing on the current status of the Statewide Data Infrastructure Project. The presenters informed the Executive Directors Peer Group about the expected scope, key dates and hoped-for outcomes of the initiative, which is still in its beginning phases.