

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Report to Councils

March 2019

What better way to keep on top of federal arts legislation, pick up tried-and-true advocacy tips, and stay connected with NASAA and your peers than Report to Councils! Consider sharing this edition at your next board or council meeting. To receive Report to Councils regularly, contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

FY2019 NEA Funding Increase

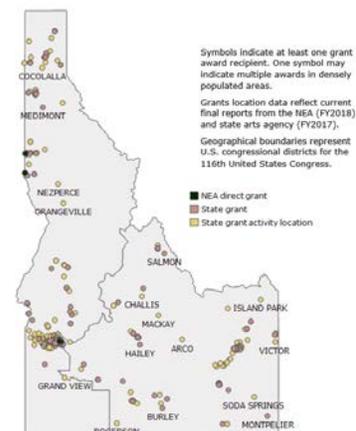
After overcoming stalled budget negotiations, funding extensions and a partial government shutdown, Congress and the President last month finalized fiscal year 2019 funding for federal agencies. In the final FY2019 budget, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) [received an increase](#) of \$2 million to \$155 million. The increase was supported by both the House and the Senate—and it was the persistent work of advocates like you who brought this to fruition. Thank you!

The Federal Government, States and the Arts

National Endowment for the Arts and Idaho Commission on the Arts Grants

Get the facts about NEA grant making—nationally and in your state—with NASAA's two-page [NEA Arts Investment Fact Sheets](#).

Just revised for FY2019, the first page of each fact sheet offers data points about NEA appropriations and their benefits nationwide, and the second page shows the impact of NEA Partnership Agreement funds in *your* state—and what would be at stake if those funds were not available. To order your customized fact sheet, contact NASAA Research Manager [Paul Pietsch](#).



Save the Date: NASAA 2019 Leadership Institute

September 18-20, 2019 | Providence, Rhode Island

State arts agency executive and deputy directors, chairs, and council members are invited to attend this one-of-a-kind [arts leadership conference](#)!



Helping You Advocate

Whether you're new to advocating for the arts or you're a veteran at making the case for public funding, NASAA has concise resources that can enhance your efforts.

- **NEW!** [Meetings Matter!](#) recommends easy and effective ways to conduct meetings with a legislator or their staff.
- **NEW!** [Advocacy vs. Lobbying: An Arts Primer](#) sheds light on the crucial difference between advocacy and lobbying and debunks common misconceptions around nonprofits' ability to speak up.
- **UPDATED!** [Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts](#) offers easy steps artists and arts organizations can take to encourage support for the arts.



Photo courtesy of South Carolina Arts Alliance

And there's more! Check out our popular list of [arts advocacy tools](#). To dive more deeply into the whys and wherefores, refer to [Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#)

Rural Equity and State Arts Agencies

NASAA uses state arts agency grant-making data to analyze how states serve diverse communities in efforts to advance equity and access to the arts. Our latest infographic, [State Arts Agencies Advancing Rural Equity](#), shows how state arts agencies allocate grant awards and funding to rural areas. [NASAA's research staff](#) can tell you how your state compares to the national norm.

Better Together

Your contributions make NASAA's advocacy possible—thank you! Gifts from people like you support our efforts to preserve the NEA and empower you, your agency and other influential arts advocates in every state. You can learn more about [supporting NASAA](#), or [contribute now](#) to help with this work. Thanks for all you do for the arts!

New to Your Arts Council?

If you are a new council member, welcome to the NASAA family! The resources below are specifically designed for state arts agency board and commission members:

- [Welcome, Newcomers](#): The gold **Councils: Quick-start menu** offers helpful information about state arts agencies and their role.
- [For Council Members](#): Get the basics on arts councils, advocacy, and how to stay informed and connected.
- [Who's Who in Government Arts Funding](#): This infographic describes team members and their roles—along with who benefits from public investment in the arts.
- [NASAA Notes](#): Our monthly newsletter provides commentary and relevant news. Contact [Sue Struve](#) to be sure you are subscribed!

Want to know more? Arrange a live [video orientation to NASAA services](#) for your council. And feel free to [contact NASAA](#) anytime!