

## Report to Councils November 2019

NASAA is here for you! As an appointed arts leader, you can depend on NASAA to equip you with useful facts, to advocate on your behalf in Congress, and to connect you with your peers. Read on for details—and feel free to print this edition and distribute it at your next council meeting. To be sure you're on the Report to Councils e-mail list, contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

### Federal Arts Support Status

The U.S. House of Representatives in June passed legislation that would increase fiscal year 2020 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) by \$12.5 million, to \$167.5 million. NASAA and other arts organizations had asked the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee to match the House-approved figure. [The Senate in October approved funding of \\$157 million](#). We appreciate Congress's strong bipartisan support of the NEA and its movement toward our goal, and will continue to urge legislators to support funding the federal arts agency at \$167.5 million.

Next, the two chambers must negotiate differences between their bills. Because budget deadlines are approaching, this may necessitate a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. While this process moves forward, NASAA encourages state arts agency council members to contact members of the House and Senate appropriations committees or their staffs to:

- thank them for their support;
- remind them that 40% of the NEA's grant funds go to states;
- update them on your agency's latest news.

### Leadership Institute Photos and Proceedings

NASAA's 2019 Leadership Institute in Providence, Rhode Island, brought together state arts agency chairs, council members, executive directors and deputies for in-depth learning and discussion. We were joined by our colleagues from the National Endowment for the Arts along with experts in grant-making equity, creative aging, public health, economic development and advocacy.



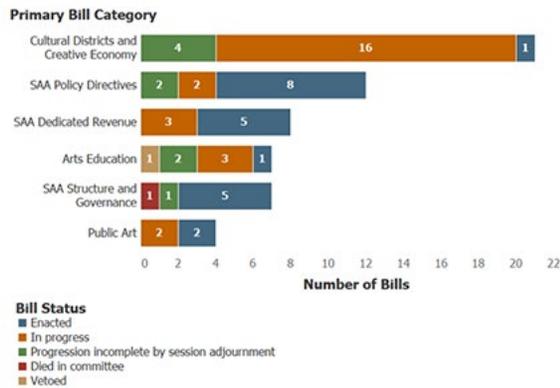
Photo: [GeorgeLong.com](#)

Whether or not you were able to join us, you'll find a trove of useful information in our [conference proceedings](#)—including notes from the [Chairs and Council Members Peer Session](#). Enjoy the [photo album](#), too!

## Strengthening Your Agency's Creative Placemaking Work

We know state arts agency board and council members are aware of the importance of community arts development. Your agency's staff and grant funds enliven communities, support arts access, facilitate cross-sector collaborations and help the arts contribute to civic life. A new partnership between NASAA and ArtPlace America will help state arts agencies build their creative placemaking knowledge and skills. NASAA CEO Pam Breau and ArtPlace America Senior Program Officer Leila Tamari offer more about the project, [Strengthening the State Arts Agency Support System for Creative Placemaking](#).

## New Arts Legislation



NASAA's [2019 State Legislative Roundup](#) equips cultural policy leaders like you with the knowledge to advance legislation beneficial to the arts. We monitor state legislation each year that is pertinent to state arts agencies and your constituencies. Our 2019 report summarizes and notes the status of nearly 60 bills, sorted by categories such as Arts Education, Cultural Districts and Creative Economy, and Public Art. It includes an analysis of cultural policy trends since 2015.

## State Investments in Creative Aging

NASAA is partnering with [Aroha Philanthropies](#) on a new creative aging initiative. We are researching the kinds of investments that might help state arts agencies serve older adults as well as the artists, arts organizations and community partners who spark their creativity.

As part of the project, NASAA conducted a national survey to inventory existing creative aging programs, practices and resources used by state arts agencies and their partners. [Highlights from the national survey](#) show that creative aging programming is in high demand among state arts agencies, and reveal challenges and opportunities in supporting creative aging activities.



Photo courtesy Music for Seniors

## Working Together for You

As a council member, you understand the value of working together to achieve a common goal. At NASAA we work for you! We're dedicated to supporting and strengthening your work and your agency. We're asking all our members to be part of our *Better Together* year-end campaign, to help us raise \$25,000 by December 31. Your participation, at whatever level is right for you, makes a difference. When we *all* support NASAA, we are *all* stronger. [Please make your gift today](#). Thank you!