

Report to Councils January 2020

Report to Councils is designed 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 NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#) to be sure you don't miss an issue!

Bipartisan Federal Support for the Arts

In December, [Congress approved](#) and the President signed legislation appropriating \$162 million to the National Endowment for the Arts for fiscal year 2020. The figure is an increase of \$7.25 million over FY2019 and represents the agency's second-highest funding level since 1996. The increase reaffirms Congress's strong bipartisan support for the arts and for the federal-state partnership—which allocates 40% of all Endowment grant dollars to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations. NASAA is already in dialogue with our arts advocacy colleagues regarding FY2021 funding and other federal arts policy goals for the year ahead.

Creative Community Development

NASAA has joined forces with the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations to bring attention to the role of the arts in economic development. Our jointly authored article, [State Policy Innovations to Support Creative Placemaking](#), offers seven policy recommendations showing how government can harness the power of creativity and culture to foster equitable, resilient and prosperous communities. The article is one of several excellent resources in the recent [Community Development Innovation Review](#). Learn more about these [creative community development resources](#), along with NASAA's ArtPlace America partnership aimed at [Strengthening the State Arts Agency Support System for Creative Placemaking](#).



The Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations and Just Act's "Art Powered Places" uses arts based strategies to help residents develop a shared vision of transformation. Photo: Lisa Jo Epstein, Just Act

New Year, Renewed Advocacy!

Thinking of beefing up your arts advocacy efforts in 2020? Making plans to meet with your state legislators to discuss the value of public funding of the arts? Wishing you had some succinct statements and helpful tools for this work? You're in the right place! NASAA's advocacy resources show you how [Meetings Matter](#). We break it down into [Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts](#). And we offer the [Facts vs. Fiction](#) about government arts funding. Find these resources and many more on our [Advocate](#) page—and don't hesitate to [reach out to NASAA](#) for helpful tips and advice.

Meet Your New NASAA Board Members



In September, state arts agencies elected a new chair, officers and five new members to NASAA's 2020 board of directors. Nebraska Arts Council Executive Director Suzanne Wise (top left) was elected chair, and the new members are (clockwise from top center) Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Karl Blischke, First Peoples Fund Vice President of Programs and Operations Mary V. Bordeaux, MUSE Research Principal Iyonna Chand O'Neal, Louisiana State Arts Council Member Gene Meneray, and ArtsWA Executive Director Karen Hanan. See the [NASAA Board of Directors](#) page for further details.

Mindfulness Meditation

Practicing mindfulness supports focus, listening, attention and stronger connections to others, while easing reactivity and stress—a real asset to arts leaders! If you'd like to learn more about mindfulness, please contact NASAA Chief Advancement Officer [Laura Smith](#), 202-347-7066. She has training in meditation and experience in helping creative professionals build a practice that supports their goals and well-being. She leads a group of state arts agency staff and council members that meditates via conference call twice a week, and you are welcome to join.

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to NASAA's 2019 Annual Fund. Individuals contributed \$118,000 last year, exceeding our goal by 18%—a huge success for all of us! Strong individual support to NASAA means we can do even more for your agency and your state in the year ahead, including developing new advocacy messaging that works across the political spectrum and supporting state arts agencies' many programmatic innovations. We're excited for the new opportunities that lie ahead and hope you'll [join us](#) in 2020 to help support your work and advance the arts. Thank you!

Join Us in Puerto Rico for NASAA Assembly 2020

All state arts agency council members and staff are invited to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for [NASAA Assembly 2020](#)! Save the date:

October 21-23, 2020

San Juan is a city of cultural abundance in America's largest jurisdiction. Assembly participants will observe firsthand the city's creativity, resiliency and global influence.

Assembly sessions will boost your arts advocacy skills and keep you abreast of trends. And you'll see dynamic artists and tour iconic venues selected by our host, the [Institute of Puerto Rican Culture](#). Don't miss this opportunity to connect with your colleagues from around the nation. More info coming soon!

