



Arts Education Working Group

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The Arts Education Working Group (AEWG) designs and leads the annual Professional Development Institute (PDI) and quarterly virtual professional learning opportunities for state and jurisdictional arts agency arts education managers, funded under a cooperative agreement between NASAA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

AEWG Structure

The AEWG typically includes 11 members:

- seven arts education managers representing the six arts regions across the country (the Western region has two representatives due to its large size)
- the PDI host-state's arts education manager
- the NEA's arts education director and arts education specialist
- NASAA's arts education project manager

Regional arts education manager representatives serve staggered three-year terms on the AEWG. The PDI host-state representative serves for one year, during which the PDI takes place in their state.

Serving as an AEWG member is a leadership opportunity for state arts agency arts education managers. AEWG members are elected by their peers for their roles as regional representatives because of their commitment to and knowledge of the work of arts education in their region. They lead the peer group conversation on important topics and shared priorities for arts education across the country, and benefit by learning and sharing closely with a group of other leaders in arts education. Joining the AEWG helps grow the capacity of participating members and increases their national view of trends in arts education.

The NEA's arts education director and arts education specialist are active collaborators in the work of the AEWG. Beyond providing valuable financial support, the NEA is a working partner in developing virtual professional learning offerings and

in planning and evaluating the PDI. These NEA staff also serve as ambassadors, sharing insights and lessons learned from the state arts agency arts education peer group's professional learning activities across the Endowment and within other arts education leadership networks.

Leadership and Meetings

AEWG leadership includes a chair, a cochair, the PDI host, NEA partners and the NASAA arts education project manager. The AEWG chair is elected to serve as cochair for one year prior to serving a one-year term as chair. AEWG leadership meets once per month (1 hour) to prepare the agenda for the monthly full AEWG call (1.5 hours) and to report to NEA partners on PDI planning. The AEWG cochair also serves as the point person for the AEWG's virtual learning offerings, for a total of four quarterly meetings per year. Both the AEWG chair and cochair may serve on additional subcommittees (programming, mentoring, etc.) during the PDI planning process. The AEWG chair and cochair also participate in the PDI site visit, which generally takes place in April, to meet with the PDI host and gather information about potential venues and local partner organizations.

Regional Meetings

AEWG representatives lead regular meetings with their region's arts education manager counterparts, varying from monthly to quarterly conference calls, in order to make sure there is representation from all arts education managers in the virtual learning and PDI planning processes and that the developing agendas are relevant to the peer group's concerns.

PDI Planning

Planning the PDI is a highly collaborative, iterative process that works best when all members of the AEWG attend and fully participate in the monthly committee and subcommittee meetings.

In years when the PDI is a preconference of the biannual NASAA Assembly, it takes place in the Assembly host city and state. In years when the PDI is not a preconference of the Assembly, the AEWG requests and evaluates proposals from prospective state arts agency hosts and selects the location. When the arts education manager from the PDI's host state joins the AEWG (typically in March), they bring key suggestions and guidance related to every aspect of planning the PDI, including potential meeting venues, arts partners, teaching artists, etc.

During the planning process, AEWG members conduct independent research, interview potential speakers, facilitate group planning conversations and develop a

detailed conference agenda.

During the PDI, which typically takes place in September or October, AEWG members facilitate and staff the PDI agenda, along with the PDI manager and NEA staff, as needed. After the PDI, the AEWG members review the PDI evaluation survey and make recommendations about how to incorporate feedback into the next PDI planning cycle.

Quarterly Virtual Learning

Led by the AEWG cochair, the AEWG plans quarterly virtual learning sessions designed either to build upon themes introduced at the most recent PDI, to preview emerging topics that will be addressed at the upcoming PDI or to address immediate needs identified by regional groups. This flexible planning structure allows the AEWG to maintain alignment with PDI goals while being responsive to the evolving professional development needs of arts education managers throughout the year.

More Information

For more information about NASAA's Arts Education Working Group, please contact NASAA Arts Education Project Manager Meghan McFerrin at meghan.mcferrin@nasaa-arts.org.