

FISCAL YEAR 2019

# HIGHLIGHTS: NASAA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Assembly of  
State Arts Agencies

Our success is YOUR success! Thanks to the support of individuals like you, NASAA accomplished a lot in 2019—just see for yourself below. See all of NASAA's accomplishments in our [FY2019 Action Plan Highlights](#).

Please help move our work forward by [donating today](#). Your gift strengthens state arts agencies and supports our professional community so that together we can keep advancing the arts. Thank you!



## POLITICS AND POLICY

Following midterm elections for 36 governors, 6,070 state legislative races and 470 contested seats in Congress, NASAA helped state arts agencies to build influence across a complex and contentious political spectrum. Highlights include:

- Testifying in person to the U.S. House of Representatives
- Advising state arts agencies (SAAs) on work with gubernatorial transition teams and inaugural activities
- Convening a Capitol Hill briefing on The Arts and Rural Prosperity
- Completing a rural prosperity partnership with the National Governors Association
- Issuing advocacy guidance on establishing relationships with state legislators and conducting successful meetings with elected officials
- Producing three editions of our Practical Advocate series: Advocacy vs. Lobbying: An Arts Primer, Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts, and Meetings Matter!
- Training SAA staff and advocacy groups on political depolarization strategies



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

NASAA provided a robust suite of member services and practical tools to help SAAs advance DEI and to help NASAA lead by example. Highlights include:

- Convening an in-person meeting and quarterly conference calls of our affinity group for people of color in the SAA field
- Launching a mentorship program to support the professional growth of people of color in service to SAAs
- Expanding our Visualizing Equity in Grant Making service suite

- Establishing national benchmarks for Rural Equity, Economic Equity and Race Equity
- Collecting new demographic data on the SAA field
- Integrating DEI into the Assembly 2018 conference learning design through an intentionally diverse cadre of session leaders and speakers as well as sessions dedicated to negotiating cultural, economic and political differences; a workshop on Leading Inclusive Dialogue was the top-rated session of the Assembly
- Collaborating in equity work with numerous colleague organizations, including Americans for the Arts, national arts service organizations, the Arts Education Partnership and others



## STATE ARTS AGENCY INNOVATION

NASAA helps members find creative solutions to persistent problems and adjust their programs to changing realities. Highlights of new NASAA services include:

- Arts and health resources that equip SAAs to be part of a paradigm shift in health care and fight the opioid epidemic:
  - Creative Aging Strategy Sampler
  - Arts in Clinical Settings Strategy Sampler
  - Arts and the Opioid Epidemic Strategy Sampler
- Amplifying the work that SAAs do on creative aging through research and a new collaboration with Aroha Philanthropies
- Training SAA staff on how to avoid bias and achieve greater equity in their grant panel adjudications
- Launching a new partnership with ArtPlace America to empower SAA community development work
- Updating performance measurement models that illustrate a variety of approaches to defining and collecting metrics for state budget offices



## STATE ARTS AGENCY LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

NASAA welcomes new executive directors, orienting them to public service and equipping them to succeed in meeting the unique demands of our field:

- Our Boot Camp for new executive directors offered intensive orientations and leadership development training.
- We hosted meet-and-greet events for new appointees at Assembly 2018 and the 2019 Leadership Institute.
- We conducted onboarding and orientation calls with all new or interim directors.