

Report to Councils

March 2020

Did you know NASAA offers exclusive content for state arts agency council and board members? See your [For Council Members](#) page to get briefed on the national arts policy ecosystem, to learn the most effective advocacy moves and to connect with state arts leaders like you from around the country. Also: read NASAA Report to Councils! Make sure you are on our e-mail list: contact NASAA Communications Manager [Sue Struve](#).

FY2021 Federal Arts Funding Request—and You

At this time of year, Congress begins budget deliberations for fiscal year 2021. President Trump's proposed budget has again called for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts and other cultural agencies—but it is your representatives in Congress who ultimately determine the federal budget. Arts advocates are fortunate that we have bipartisan congressional support for the Arts Endowment, as demonstrated by the past five consecutive years of funding increases. NASAA and our advocacy allies have requested an increase for the agency to \$170 million, \$7.5 million above FY2020's figure.

As you prepare to approach your elected officials about the importance of this federal-state partnership, we hope you find the language from [NASAA's recent testimony to Congress](#) useful in your efforts. See also the Endowment's [State & Regional Fact Sheet](#). Remember: 40% of all Arts Endowment grant dollars are designated for state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, which then make allocation decisions that meet their constituents' needs.

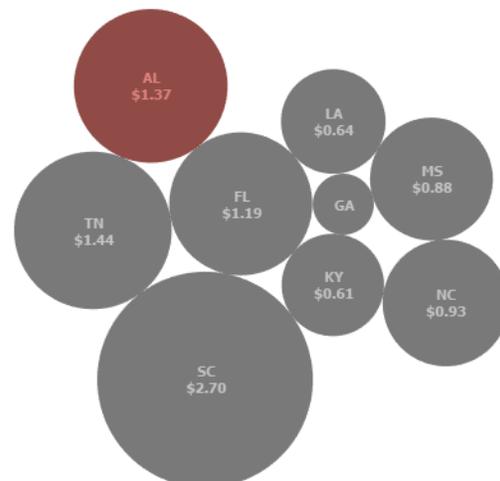
State Arts Appropriations on the Rise

State and jurisdictional arts agencies reported \$494.2 million in total legislative appropriations for fiscal year 2020, an increase of 37.3% over FY2019. Despite a large part of this coming from line items in a few states, 42 of 56 agencies reported increases—19 of which were up 10% or more. This data and a whole lot more can be found in NASAA's just-released reporting on state arts agency revenues for FY2020. Peruse these tools:

- [Per Capita map](#): How much arts funding per citizen did your state appropriate this year?
- [Total Revenue Explorer](#): Select your state to view five years of revenue history, including state appropriations, National Endowment for the Arts funds and other revenue sources.
- [Regional Explorer](#): Compare your agency's arts appropriations and revenue with other states in your region.

For details, see the full [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2020 report](#), or check out this [succinct summary](#).

FY2020 Total Revenue Per Capita
Alabama's total revenue per capita compared to other Southern states



Hesitate to Advocate? Educate!

Are you interested in advocating for public funding for the arts, but you're not sure what to say? Wondering how to approach a legislator about the benefits your arts agency brings to communities in your state? Fear not! NASAA has some easy tools and resources to boost your confidence and sharpen your advocacy skills.

All states allow citizens to educate lawmakers and the public about topics that are important to them—and educating does not usually carry the same constraints as lobbying. Try these resources designed to help, from the Advocacy 101 section of [NASAA's Advocacy Tools](#) collection:

- [Being an Arts Ambassador](#)
- [Advocacy vs. Lobbying: An Arts Primer](#)

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| The Advocacy Continuum | EDUCATION | Increasing public understanding about the arts |
| | ADVOCACY | Expressing support for the arts as an important public policy issue |
| | LOBBYING | Attempting to shape votes on pending legislation related to the arts |
| | ELECTION-EERING | Making the arts an issue in political campaigns for elected office |

Thank You!

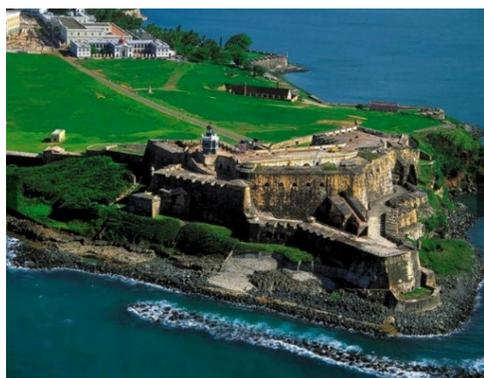
A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported NASAA in 2019. Support from individuals allows us to promote your priorities in Congress and create advocacy tools and resources, like the ones featured here—activities NASAA can't use federal dollars for, but that are crucial to strengthening all state arts agencies. Your gifts make our work possible, and we're grateful!

Get Social with NASAA

There's more than one way to connect with NASAA:

- Be sure you are on our [email list](#) to get news about your field.
- Check out our [website](#) for the latest resources.
- Join NASAA and your colleagues at our annual [conferences](#).
- Register for free [web seminars](#) tailored to state arts agencies.
- Call or e-mail us with questions anytime: 202-347-6352, nasaa@nasaa-arts.org
- And follow NASAA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for bite-sized news and info you can use!

NASAA Assembly 2020: Registration Coming Soon



Registration opens in April for [NASAA Assembly 2020](#), taking place **October 21-23** in **San Juan, Puerto Rico**. Keep an eye on your inbox for announcements about this gathering of state arts agency council members and staff.

Not only will Assembly sessions enhance your skills as an arts leader and keep you on top of trends, but you'll have time to enjoy the diverse culture of this beautiful city, nestled in America's largest jurisdiction. NASAA and our host, the [Institute of Puerto Rican Culture](#), look forward to greeting you!