

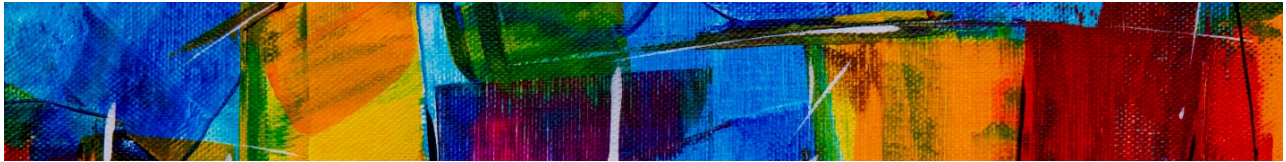
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Report to Councils September 2020

What can NASAA do for you as a state arts agency council member? Find out in Report to Councils! Be sure you are on [NASAA's e-mail list](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Don't Miss NASAA's Learning Series, Starting August 27!



NASAA's online learning series—starting this week—places special focus on the new realities facing the arts and how state arts agencies can lead needed change. [Shifting Policy and Practice: Insights and Actions for States](#) offers seven sessions over nine weeks, August 27 – October 22, that are FREE to the council members and staff of state arts agencies and regional arts organizations. Sessions cover topics that state arts commission members will find especially timely:

- messaging that can bolster arts advocacy
- making public funding for the arts more equitable and accessible
- putting the arts at the center of social healing and community resilience
- adaptive programming, services and practices
- how the pandemic is inspiring creative aging work

[Register for the sessions of your choice or for the full series.](#)

NASAA Leadership Awards Nominations Deadline Extended

NASAA Leadership Awards provide an opportunity to showcase the excellent work and leadership of your agency. New this year: the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) awards—one for an individual and one for an agency—lift up those who demonstrate an emerging or sustained commitment to advancing DEI in their states. In keeping with tradition, the Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes a council member for their exceptional service, and the Gary Young Award recognizes an executive director for their outstanding agency leadership. There's still time to [nominate your state](#)! **The deadline for nominations is now Friday, September 4.**



COVID-19 Resources for State Arts Agencies

Did you know that NASAA offers a hub for COVID-19 resources? [COVID-19 Resources for State Arts Agencies](#)—updated regularly—lists examples of state arts agency COVID-19 relief efforts, reopening guidance, equity resources, online meeting help and more.

COVID-19 coronavirus illustration by David S. Goodsell

Equity, Inclusion Resources for Council Members

NASAA's [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources](#) give you insight into state arts agency programs and data, learnings from NASAA sessions and seminars, and recommended resources that guide public arts funders in ensuring equitable access to the arts. Of note is NASAA's new [Inclusive Language Guide](#). This listing of resources regarding race and ethnicity, ability, age, gender and sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status is a way to ensure your agency can be a standard bearer of inclusive language.



All communities deserve access to the economic, educational and civic benefits of the arts.

Council members of color are invited to join NASAA's **People of Color Affinity Group**, which connects people of color within the state arts agency field and ensures a safe space for members of color to participate openly in leading the changes necessary to achieve inclusivity for all. If you would like to join the People of Color Affinity Group or have questions, please contact [Marisa Summers](#).

Federal Arts Funding: In Progress

As Congress focuses on the next round of pandemic related relief, NASAA is encouraging provisions beneficial to the arts as well as general aid for states. COVID-19 response means Congress has less time to finalize a federal budget for fiscal year 2021. In late July, the House recommended [\\$170 million in funding](#) for the National Endowment for the Arts, an increase of \$7.5 million that signals strong support for the benefits of the arts for communities across the nation. NASAA is hopeful that, when the Senate turns to FY2021 budgeting, a similar number can be enacted—though a continuing resolution maintaining current levels may be used as an interim measure until after the elections. NASAA will keep our members apprised as actions unfold.

State Arts Funding: Uncertain Forecast

State budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic are causing uncertainty in the forecast for FY2021 arts appropriations. NASAA's annual preview of projected state arts funding provides an initial baseline. Find your state's numbers in our [FY2021 Legislative Appropriations Preview](#), along with per capita rankings for all 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies. The vast majority of states have indicated their FY2021 appropriations are likely to change, so reach out to NASAA for the latest figures. NASAA's [advocacy tools](#) help you make the case for resources in your state!

Better Together

As your professional association, NASAA is here for you! We are committed to providing your agency—and *all* state arts agencies—with the support you need to help artists and cultural organizations in your state weather the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19. Individual contributions from our members make it possible for NASAA to provide all the vital advocacy, in-depth research, new resources and high-quality leadership training you see here—plus so much more! Your support strengthens our work, and in turn NASAA strengthens state arts agencies. Find out how you can [support NASAA and state arts agencies](#). Thank you!