

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Report to Councils December 2020

Distribute this succinct report at your next council meeting to inform your colleagues of how NASAA can be of service to you. Be sure you're on [NASAA's e-mail list](#) to learn the latest!

Connecting with the Incoming Administration and Congress

Following the November elections, NASAA is speaking up for the arts as federal policy directions are being formulated for the year ahead. We're in dialogue with members of President-Elect Joe Biden's transition team, highlighting the importance of the arts and state arts agencies to economic recovery, community resilience, racial equity and other core priorities of the incoming administration. We also are working with Congress to secure an appropriation for the National Endowment for the Arts in fiscal year 2021, and are joining forces with other cultural advocates to urge Congress to include the arts in forthcoming COVID-19 legislation. Visit our [Federal Updates](#) log for the latest details.

Noteworthy State Arts Legislation

We know that part of the important work you do as a state arts agency council member is to advance policy that's central to the well-being of the arts community in your state. For a national view of recent legislation related to the arts and culture, check out our [State Legislative Roundup 2020](#). We tracked hundreds of bills and homed in on 120 for this report. Topics include funding, arts education, programming, public art, the creative economy, and state arts agency structure and governance. New this year is arts related legislation on COVID-19 and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. If you have questions about advocating for public funding for the arts, have a legislative challenge on the horizon or want a sounding board as you plan meetings with new legislators, be sure to [call on NASAA](#).



Photo copyright West Virginia legislature

Double Your Impact

Help NASAA turn \$25,000 into \$50,000! Every gift to NASAA will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 now until December 31. Your year-end gift will go twice as far to help us advocate for a strong creative sector in 2021. All contributions directly support NASAA's advocacy tools and services that state arts agencies rely on. Join in by making a gift today! You can give online by visiting our website at www.nasaa-arts.org/support. Thank you!



Creative Aging Opportunities

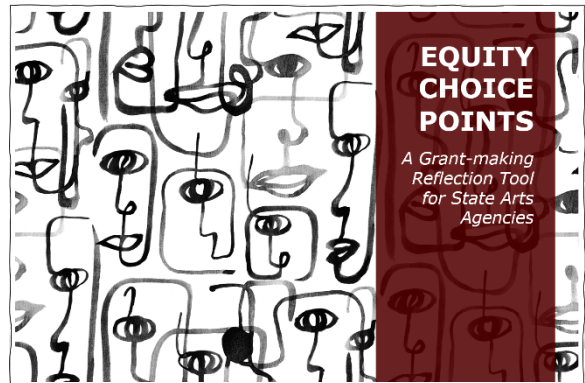


Young@Heart Chorus, photo courtesy of Young@Heart, explore their concert footage on [YouTube](#)

NASAA and Aroha Philanthropies have embarked on a joint initiative to advance creative aging across the country: [Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging](#). Older adults have important contributions to make to society as both creators and community members, and research points to the power of the arts to support well-being as we age. State arts agencies can facilitate those contributions through creative aging programs that enhance the artistry, well-being and social connections of older adults. To that end, the new initiative offers grants and professional development opportunities for state arts agencies, to help them develop programs and partnerships that foster meaningful arts learning experiences for older adults. Contact NASAA Arts Learning Projects Director [Susan Oetgen](#) for more.

Choosing Equity

Is your council trying to make your grant making more equitable and inclusive? Do you have a diversity, equity and inclusion committee? Is your agency revising guidelines to better meet the needs of underserved populations in your state? If so, a new NASAA resource can help! [Equity Choice Points: A Grant-making Reflection Tool for State Arts Agencies](#) looks at common policy structures and grant-making practices that may hold reservoirs of unintended bias. It includes examples from state arts agencies that have forged pathways to change. Companion resources include the [transcript](#) and [highlight reel](#) from our Equity Choice Points session featuring the California Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council and the New England Foundation for the Arts.



In Case You Missed It...

- [NASAA Leadership Awards!](#) See who won this year's Distinguished Public Service and Gary Young Awards, and congratulate the three winners of our inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awards.
- Extend a warm welcome to members of the [NASAA 2021 board of directors](#).
- In her annual [report to members](#), NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux salutes state arts agencies and your accomplishments in an especially challenging year. You're the stars!