

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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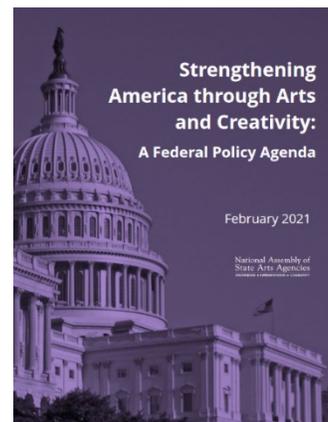
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## Report to Councils March 2021

This report offers council members essential insights for encounters with legislators and other civic leaders, as you bolster support for the arts in your state. Be sure you're on our [e-mail list](#)!

### NASAA Supports Recovery through the Arts

You've seen firsthand how the creative industries have been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help, NASAA is actively [advocating](#) for relief and recovery assistance. In collaboration with other national arts advocates, our team is working with the White House and congressional leaders to ensure the arts are included in federal recovery plans. NASAA has developed a focused policy agenda to guide our federal advocacy priorities on behalf of state arts agencies. [Strengthening America through Arts and Creativity: A Federal Policy Agenda](#) encourages policymakers to use the arts to revive our nation's economy, grow resources for the National Endowment for the Arts, leverage creativity across the federal government, and harness the power of the arts to advance equity and help America heal.



Central to all of NASAA's policy efforts, of course, is a robust federal-state partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and state arts agencies. NASAA's brand-new policy brief, [The Federal-State Partnership in the Arts](#), helps state arts agency council members and policymakers alike learn more about what federal funds accomplish through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

### Solid Facts on the Arts and Economic Recovery

NASAA research empowers arts advocacy at both the federal and state levels. NASAA spearheaded a novel research effort that shows that the arts have a unique and critical contribution to make to our economy's renewal. This new [Arts and Economic Recovery Research](#) reveals how the arts strengthen the economy following periods of acute economic distress. For snapshots of the research, consult these key findings:

- [The Arts And Culture Sector's Contributions to Economic Recovery and Resiliency in the United States](#)—examining the effects of the creative industries on economic productivity, employment and compensation
- [Creative Economies and Economic Recovery](#)—a collection of case studies from 11 states demonstrating how communities small and large are harnessing their creative assets to grow economic opportunities and rebound from hard times



Citizen Paint Project, 34th Street Mural, 2011, Mount Rainier, Maryland, Hyattsville CDC

## Core Messages about Public Funding for the Arts

Looking for a way to craft messages about public support for the arts to your elected officials—be they conservative, centrist or progressive? Consult our new advocacy messaging one-pagers for answers!

- [How to Talk about Public Funding](#) is a structured set of arguments emphasizing why government support of the arts is essential.
- [The Core Message](#) outlines an "elevator pitch" distilling five key advocacy message components.

These handy reference sheets are derived from our new handbook, [Arts and Creativity Strengthen Our Nation: A Narrative and Message Guide](#), which offers tested messages that are proven to be effective across the political spectrum. The guide was created by a nationally recognized communications firm with expertise in the science of framing messages to build public will. Arts and Creativity Strengthen Our Nation helps you hone your arguments to broaden support for the arts and to position the arts as a necessity, whether you're speaking with legislators, recruiting partners or training advocates.

## Get the Data on State Arts Revenues

In a difficult legislative season, NASAA and arts advocates nationwide are working to preserve resources for the arts. To see where your state stands in arts funding per capita, get a handle on funding sources, and understand state arts funding in the context of national trends, consult NASAA's [Fiscal Year 2021 State Arts Agency Revenues](#) report. For regional comparisons, trends over time and other data, our updated [interactive dashboards](#) make it easy to find what you need. [Contact NASAA](#) to explore how this data can be used in meetings with policymakers and others to support your case.

## NASAA 2021 Learning Series

Join state arts agency council/board members and staff from across the country for the [NASAA 2021 Learning Series](#)! In virtual sessions from March through October designed specifically for our field, explore economic recovery, resilience, advocacy, equity and more. To make the program accessible to all members, NASAA has waived registration fees for the entire series. [Join us!](#)



## NASAA Awards \$14.6 Million to States for Creative Aging

In collaboration with [Aroha Philanthropies](#), NASAA has distributed \$1.46 million in grant funding to 36 state and jurisdictional arts agencies to expand opportunities for creative aging across the nation. Projects will facilitate lifelong learning, joy, social engagement and improved well-being for older adults. Learn more about the state awards and NASAA's [Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging](#) initiative.

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## Strengthen the Arts, Strengthen Our Nation

As state arts agency leaders, *you* are the heart of our work—NASAA is committed to promoting your agency's priorities in Congress and giving you the advocacy tools and resources you need. All of our advocacy work, including the resources featured here, are made possible thanks to the generosity of individuals like you. Learn more about how to [support NASAA](#) or [contribute now](#) to help with this work. Your gift empowers your agency to grow support for the arts and in turn strengthens our nation. Thank you!