

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Report to Councils June 2021

This two-page brief is chock-full of info designed to enhance your work as a state arts agency council or board member. Make it an agenda item at your next council meeting!

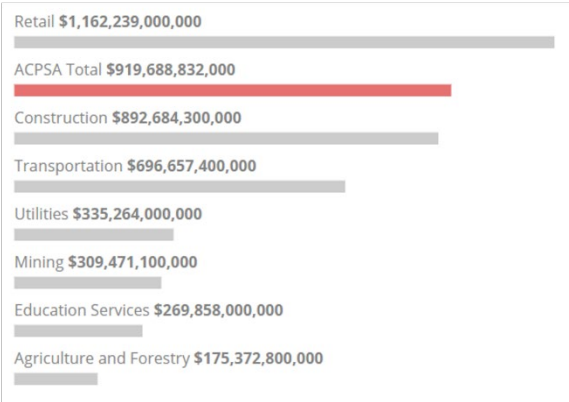
Advocating for Federal Arts Funding

NASAA President and CEO Pam Breau recently submitted [testimony on behalf of state arts agencies](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Appropriations Subcommittee (which has jurisdiction over the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts). Pam urged the subcommittee to increase funding for the agency in fiscal year 2022, underscoring the value of the federal-state partnership to communities across the country. She emphasized the tremendous work state arts agencies have accomplished in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and shared new research on how the creative sector can benefit the broader economic recovery of the entire nation. NASAA is working in partnership with colleagues to [put forth arts-focused policy](#) as Congress develops an infrastructure investment plan and further recovery legislation.

Data on Your State's Creative Economy

Updated [Creative Economy State Profiles](#) are now available, describing the value of arts and cultural production in every state prior to the global coronavirus pandemic. These data, published by the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA) in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, are an authoritative source for the value of the creative economy in each state. The data show that the creative industries are an economic powerhouse that will be crucial to our nation's recovery. Our recent (36-minute) webinar offered a [demonstration of the Creative Economy State Profiles tool](#), showing how you can use it and other resources from NASAA, the BEA and the Arts Endowment to advocate with legislators for public arts support in your state.

In the United States, arts and cultural production contributes a higher dollar amount to the U.S. economy than construction or transportation



Join Us for More: NASAA 2021 Learning Series

The [NASAA 2021 Learning Series](#) continues through October, with free sessions designed to empower the work of state arts agency commissioners and staff. Remaining sessions examine replenishing our professional (and personal) reserves, new paradigms for supporting artists, and ways to make arts funding more equitable. And we conclude this year's Learning Series with a Business Bash Celebration open to all! Recordings and resources are posted after each session—be sure to check these out: [Arts and Economic Recovery](#) | [New Advocacy Messaging Strategies](#) | [Will Audiences Come Back?](#)



Where Do SAAs Grant Dollars Go?

The state arts agency grant-making data that NASAA collects help describe the ways your agency serves the public. NASAA's latest [grant-making data](#) provides key facts on state arts agency grant-making functions, including:

- [General Operating Support](#)
- [Support for Individual Artists](#)
- [Support for Arts Education](#)
- [Support for Arts in Rural Communities](#)
- [Support for Local Arts Agencies](#)

To drill into your state's contributions over time, see NASAA's [Grant-Making Explorer](#) for total dollars awarded, operating support, individual artists, arts education, and [grantee institution and discipline types](#).

NASAA in Action—for You

Twice a year, NASAA reports on our progress in accomplishing our member-approved action plan. Our [Midyear Fiscal 2021 Action Plan Highlights](#) describe the many NASAA services that benefit your council, your staff and the arts in your state. Peruse the highlights to learn about our four top priorities for FY2021:

- Advocacy and Elections
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Strategic Adaptations
- Connection and Support

Creative Aging Institute: July 20-28

Save the date! NASAA is pleased to announce our inaugural [Creative Aging Institute](#)—part of our joint initiative with Aroha Philanthropies to advance creative aging across the United States. The Creative Aging Institute takes place online via Zoom on **July 20 and 21** and **July 27 and 28**. All state and jurisdictional arts agency staff and council members are invited to participate.

Ashton Applewhite, nationally renowned anti-ageism activist and author of [This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto against Ageism](#), is the keynote speaker. NASAA is offering the Creative Aging Institute free of charge. Registration opens soon!

National Assembly of
State Arts Agencies
KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY



Your Support Makes Our Work Possible



It's thanks to the generous support of people like you, our members and donors, that we are able to advocate on your behalf and foreground so many accomplishments in our Midyear Action Plan Highlights. As a member of NASAA, you make a profound difference when you support your professional association. Your gift strengthens state arts agencies so that together we can build a strong and resilient future for our communities and our country through the arts.

Our spring campaign is happening now. [Please join us with a gift today](#). Thank you!

Nominations to the NASAA Board

NASAA is a member-driven organization—members help chart our course in crucial ways, and nominations for the NASAA board are a big part of that. If you're interested in board service, find more information about the [attributes and leadership skills](#) NASAA is looking for in the year ahead. Nominating Committee members will be reaching out to executive directors and chairs in coming weeks, so please let your chair or director know if you would like to be considered. Thank you!