

2021

ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS: NASAA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Assembly of
State Arts Agencies

Take a look at these highlights from the past year to see how we strengthened state arts agencies and boosted the arts. Support from individuals like you makes our success possible and helps move our work forward so we can build a stronger future for the arts and for our communities. **Thank you!**



ADVOCACY AND ELECTIONS

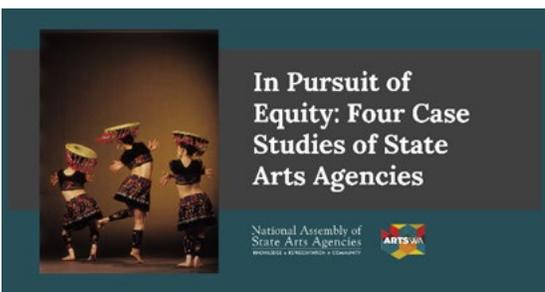
NASAA positioned the arts and helped state arts agencies get urgently needed federal and state relief resources:

- Helped secure a **\$5 million increase for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**, as well as a new round of COVID-19 relief. This marks the fifth consecutive year of increased funding for the NEA!
- Produced a new **advocacy messaging toolkit**, [*Arts and Creativity Strengthen Our Nation: A Narrative and Message Guide*](#), to gain support across the entire political spectrum.
- Released a new **federal policy platform** urging elected officials to incorporate the arts into policies that help revive America's economy and achieve greater equity.
- Promoted the arts with **key policy audiences**, such as the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- Advised new White House **appointees** on opportunities to align the arts with new federal policies.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

NASAA led by example and provided resources, tools and training to help state arts agencies reduce barriers and bias:



- Increased the **representation of people of color** on NASAA's board and staff.
- Compiled examples of **equity strategies** state arts agencies used in COVID-19 relief efforts.
- Researched and published three reports on [state arts agency equity and access strategies](#).

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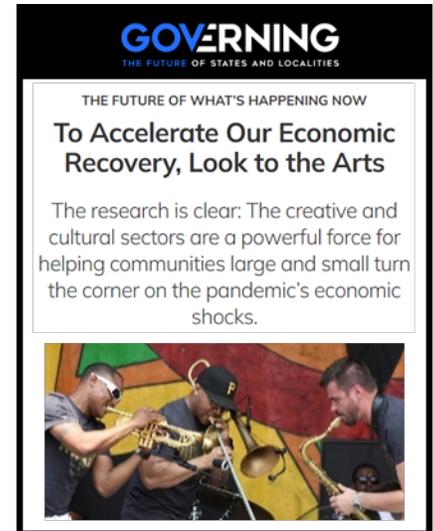
- Offered in-depth **learning programs** centered on racial equity.
- **Addressed ageism and ableism** through our [Creative Aging Institute](#).
- Organized a comprehensive [anti-bias training program](#) offered to state arts agencies and NASAA staff in late 2021.



STRATEGIC ADAPTATIONS

NASAA supported state arts agencies' innovations as they adjusted operations and programs in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis:

- Helped state arts agencies develop their rationale for **supplemental state relief funding**.
- Answered dozens of COVID-19 related [information requests](#) and advised members on changes, strategies and other timely topics.
- Helped position the arts as a crucial part of **post pandemic recovery**, including commissioning [new research](#) and publishing articles with the [National League of Cities](#) and on [Governing.com](#).
- Logged 400+ state arts agency COVID-19 programs and shared examples with the field to provide inspiration and ideas for new grant programs, research and communications.



CONNECTION, SUPPORT AND MORE!

NASAA connected state arts agencies, so they could learn from and with each other to help navigate the challenges of the past year:



- Through our [2021 Learning Series](#), offered **FREE online learning** sessions on advocacy, equity, reopening, recovery, resilience and more.
- Hosted virtual peer group meetings more frequently.
- Helped state arts agencies dealing with leadership transitions, management challenges, policy development, planning and advocacy.
- [Awarded \\$1.46 million in grants](#) to 36 state arts agencies to advance creative aging, through our partnership with Aroha Philanthropies.

This is just a snapshot of NASAA's accomplishments from fiscal year 2021. See our full [2021 Action Plan Highlights](#) for a comprehensive list of everything we achieved.

Please help move our work forward and ensure state arts agencies get the support they need in the year ahead by [donating today](#). **Thank you!**