Introduction

Every year, state legislatures around the country consider hundreds of bills relevant to state arts agencies (SAAs) and the cultural sector. Although the COVID-19 pandemic still looms large in public discourse, legislatures have continued to consider a wide range of issues—from the creative economy and public art to varied relief efforts for the arts and culture sector. This year, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) reviewed more than 1,560 bills and closely tracked 394 of them. The amount of legislation tracked by NASAA has increased significantly in the past several years. This is primarily due to recent socially significant issues such as pandemic recovery and public monuments increasing the volume of cultural policy language in state legislatures.

This roundup summarizes 131 of the most important bills considered in state legislatures this year. We highlight current legislative trends across eight categories of cultural policy and end the report with a short overview of arts and cultural legislation from the past seven years.

NASAA's annual legislative roundup is designed to help SAA staff and council members, arts advocates, local arts councils and other stakeholders understand the cultural policy landscape and inform efforts toward policy innovation and diffusion at the state level. To this end, this report considers a large volume of legislation, including bills that could foster the arts as well as those that could have negative, neutral or uncertain impact. Likewise, it includes enacted and failed bills as well as those at other stages of the legislative process at the time of writing.¹

¹ In this report, an in committee bill has been introduced to one chamber of a state legislature and is in committee but not yet engrossed. An engrossed bill has passed one chamber and been sent to the other chamber for consideration. An enrolled bill has passed both chambers and been sent to the governor. An enacted bill has been signed by the governor and become law. A vetoed bill has been rejected by the governor. A bill not enacted before a legislature's adjournment or recess is effectively dead unless the legislature reconvenes in a special session to consider it. A resolution is a mechanism for legislative expression that is typically nonbinding; resolutions aren't
Throughout the year, NASAA tracks relevant legislation in every state, monitors news sources and, most importantly, listens to members about legislation affecting their agencies and departments. If you learn of a bill that is important to your agency—or that may be informative to other SAAs—NASAA would like to know about it. You can share legislative information by contacting NASAA Research Associate Declan Wicks. Likewise, if you are interested in initiating legislation in your own state, NASAA can help by identifying sample bills and information on similar efforts in other states.

**Legislative Status of Bills Summarized, by Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Bill Category</th>
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<td>Cultural Districts and Creative Economy</td>
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<td>COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Art and Public Space</td>
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<td>Other SAA Policy Directives</td>
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<td>Arts Education</td>
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<td>SAA Dedicated Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAA Structure and Governance</td>
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</table>

**Bill Status**
- Enacted
- In progress
- Progression incomplete by session adjournment
- Died in committee or chamber
- Vetoed

Enacted but *passed*, as they become operative upon approval of both legislative chambers and don't require the governor's signature. Other state-specific status terms are used as appropriate.
### Legislative Status of Bills Summarized, by State

* = state's legislature is currently in active session (November 2021)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>State</th>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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State Legislative Roundup: November 2021  
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Highlights of Individual Bills

SAA STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE  Return to TOC

State arts agencies can experience structural changes driven by political philosophies, administrative reorganizations or other factors. Every year, NASAA watches closely for legislation that would alter the core authority of SAAs as well as their placement within state government. This year, NASAA expanded our tracking to include bills that integrate SAAs and SAA leadership into other state agencies, e.g., creating new partnerships between the arts and tourism. NASAA also saw the proposed creation of new commissions and agencies that would interact with arts and culture outside of the typical SAA sphere of influence—for example, North Carolina’s proposed American Indian Heritage Commission.

Connecticut
S.B. 00936—Advisory Panel and Connecticut Arts Council Foundation Membership Changes
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill seats the chairperson of the Connecticut Arts Council (CAC) on the Department of Economic and Community Development advisory panel that considers the proposed acceptance of any work of art offered to the state to offset the estate tax of a deceased artist. S.B. 00936 also outlines the membership requirements for the Connecticut Arts Council Foundation, a nonprofit managed by CAC.

Florida
H. 0909—Renaming the Division of Cultural Affairs and Transferring Certain Responsibilities
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill renames the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs as the Division of Arts and Culture, as well as changing the secretary of state's title to Florida's chief arts and culture officer. The bill also moves folklife responsibilities from the Division of Historical Resources to the Division of Arts and Culture. The Museum of Florida History is designated as the official state history museum, and historical museums are defined and the responsibility for them is expanded and transferred from the Division of Arts and Culture to the Division of Historical Resources.

North Carolina
H. 765 and S. 105—American Indian Heritage Commission
Status: In committee (H. 765) and engrossed (S. 105)
Summary: These bills would create the American Indian Heritage Commission and authorize it to support the secretary of natural and cultural resources—who oversees the state arts agency—in the "preservation, interpretation, and promotion of American Indian history, arts, customs, and culture." Bill H. 765 also would appropriate $500,000 over fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to fund the commission.

Pennsylvania
H.B. 828—Establishing the Tourism Commission and the Tourism Board
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would create the Pennsylvania Tourism Commission as an independent agency and establish its respective Tourism Board. The executive director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts would sit on this board and assist with the agency's goal in serving as the official state agency for tourism promotion and marketing. The bill also would create the Tourism Promotion Trust Fund within the state treasury, to be funded by the tax collected by a booking agent on hotel accommodation fees as well as other sources and to be used by the new Tourism Commission.
Utah
H.B. 0313—Changing the Arts Department Name
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill changes the Utah Division of Arts & Museums's parent agency's name to the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement. The bill also expands the department's responsibilities and adds the directive of "planning, promoting, and supporting cultural and community engagement" as an overarching goal for all programs.

SAA DEDICATED REVENUE  Return to TOC

Every state arts agency secures Partnership Agreement funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and appropriations from its state legislature. Some SAAs, however, have additional sources of dedicated funding—such as a cultural trust or a designated stream of tax revenue—that are legislatively authorized. This year, states considered several bills with dedicated funding implication, such as arts license plates, expanding tourism funds, and using lottery bonds to pay for capital projects.

Alaska
S.B. 71 and H.B. 161—Creating an Arts License Plate
Status: Engrossed (S.B. 71) and in committee (H.B. 161)
Summary: These bills would create a fee—to be determined by the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA)—for a license plate celebrating the arts. Both bills would set the fee cap at $50, however S.B. 71 gives the legislature the power to appropriate the revenue to the arts and cultural investment fund, which is also established by this bill. Bill H.B. 161 instead gives the legislature the power to appropriate the revenue directly to the ASCA. Notably, neither bill would require the legislature to appropriate the new license plate revenue to either the new fund or ASCA. These bills also would make ASCA’s competition to design a new license plate optional instead of being held every four years. The bills would allow ASCA, in consultation with the Department of Administration, to pay the winning artist for their design, using funds generated by the celebrating the arts license plate.

The duties of ASCA also would be expanded to include managing and adopting policies for relocating, disposing of and exchanging works of art acquired through Alaska’s Art Works in Public Buildings and Facilities Fund or its Art in Public Places Fund. The newly created Alaska Arts and Cultural Investment fund would be placed under ASCA's responsibility. These bills would set the state attorney general as the legal counsel for ASCA, and H.B. 161 would exempt funds received from private nonprofit organizations from the state's Executive Budget Act.

Connecticut
H.B. 06119—Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund
Status: Died in committee
Summary: This bill would have renamed the Tourism Fund as the "Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund." The bill would have more than doubled the funds deposited in the account, from 10% to 25% of pertinent tax revenue.

NASAA’s SAA Dedicated Revenue Strategies Policy Brief offers an overview of the multiple state and private funding mechanisms that support SAAs. NASAA also provides a state-by-state overview of the following strategies:

- Specialty License Plates
- Special Taxes and Fees
- Lottery and Gaming Taxes
Massachusetts  
S. 2301—License Plate for the Arts  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would create a vehicle registration plate indicating support for the arts, with a design selected through a contest judged by the Mass Cultural Council or its designees. A $50 or greater fee for the plate would be assessed and resulting funds would be transferred Mass Cultural Council.

New York  
A. 07262 and S. 05317—Arts Education and Special Tax on Artwork, Antique Jewelry and Antique Furniture  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** These bills would set a tax of 0.3% or $1 dollar, whichever is greater, on all artwork, antique jewelry and antique furniture sold at auction. The revenue from these taxes would be deposited in the art education fund, also created by these bills, to support the New York State Council on the Arts in providing assistance with arts education and arts supplies for K-12 public schools.

Pennsylvania  
H.B. 829—Establishing the Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund  
**Status:** Laid on the table  
**Summary:** This bill would create the Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund within the state treasury, to be funded by 1/6 of the hotel occupancy tax. 60% of the funds would be used for tourism promotion and marketing, 20% for museum assistance grants and 20% for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for grants.

Rhode Island  
H. 6122—Governor's Portrait Fund  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill creates the Governor's Portrait Donation Fund account within the budget of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts for use in supplementing the state appropriation for the governor's portrait. The account shall record all receipts and expenditures of donations for such purpose.

**PUBLIC ART AND PUBLIC SPACE**  [Return to TOC](#)

States foster the exhibition of art in public spaces to generate opportunities for artists, increase access to culture, and enliven government buildings, town squares and other community spaces. Many state arts agencies support public art through a percent for art program, through which a small portion (typically 1%) of the capital costs of constructing or renovating state-owned buildings is set aside to underwrite public art. These programs generally have statutory authorization, which makes them vulnerable to legislative challenges. For more information on public art and percent for art programs, refer to NASAA's [Percent for Art State Policy Brief](#). For individual state programs, please see NASAA's [Public Art Resources page](#). NASAA also provides an overview of public art and equity in the report, [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in State Arts Agency Public Art Programs](#).

This year, states debated existing percentages for public art programs, considering exemptions for specific state construction and promoting new types of public art categories. Legislatures also inspected financing methods for the upkeep of current works of art and procurement practices for unique works of art.
Connecticut

S.B. 00298—Reducing State Spending by Reusing Existing Works of Art in State Buildings

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have removed Connecticut's percent for art funding mechanism and allowed works of art in existing state buildings to be transferred to other newly constructed or remodeled sites.

Hawaii'

H.B. 760 and S.B. 928—Adding Live Performances to Public Art Programming

Status: Died in committee

Summary: These bills would have allowed Hawaii’s percent for art program, Art in Public Places, to include live art performances. Both bills would have defined performing arts and required public performance art under this program to be recorded and archived.

Hawaii'

S.R. 221—Public Art in International Airport

Status: Passed

Summary: This senate resolution requests that the Department of Transportation revise the plans for the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to include expanded art exhibits, cultural references and narrative storytelling, as well as work toward sustainability goals and preparing for future pandemics.

Hawaii'

S.B. 656—Reducing Percent for Art Funding Mechanism

Status: Died in committee

Summary: S.B. 656 would have reduced Hawaii’s percent for art program funding mechanism from 1% to 0.5%. The bill also would have eliminated the funding that came from renovation of existing buildings and added (in italics) the words "new state buildings, properties or facilities" to clarify the construction to which the funding mechanism would apply.

Hawaii'

S.B. 1306—Supporting Local and Young Artists with Percent for Art Program

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have modified Hawaii’s percent for art program funding source, the Works of Art Special Fund, to allow for spending funds on recognizing and supporting local artists, including student artists and arts education programs. The bill also would have provided funding for the administration of this recognition and support.

Massachusetts

H. 3374—Exempting Artistic Services from Procurement Laws

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would exempt contracts to repair, purchase or commission artistic services, works of art, public art and/or artifacts from the state’s procurement laws. The bill also would define artistic services as services provided by an individual or group that professes and practices a skill in an artistic discipline.

Massachusetts

H. 3380 and S. 2244—Creating a Legislated Public Art Program

Status: In committee

Summary: Massachusetts currently has an executively created public art program, but there is no funding mechanism and the program is currently not in use. This pair of bills would legislatively establish
a Massachusetts Public Arts Program to be administered by a newly created public art commission. The Mass Cultural Council executive director or their designee would sit on the Public Art Commission, and the art itself would be funded by a percent for art model that would set aside 1% of appropriated capital funds for new construction. The art would be located at the site with which the 1% funding is associated.

North Dakota
H.B. 1015—Allocation for Public Art
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill allocates $1 million to the Cultural Endowment Fund from 2021 to 2023 with the intent that the North Dakota Council on the Arts spend $50,000 annually for the maintenance of public art projects created as part of the North Dakota creative placemaking program until the funds are fully expended.

Oklahoma
H.B. 2911 and S.B. 799—Adding New Exemptions to State Percent for Art Program
Status: Enacted (H.B. 2911) and died in chamber (S.B. 799)
Summary: H.B. 2911 exempts capital projects for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department from the state's 1.5 percent for art funding. S.B. 799 would have exempted the Tourism and Recreation Department only when budgeting, contracting for and performing maintenance, repairs, remodels or refabrications to existing structures. New projects would have still been part of the state's 1.5 percent for art program.

Oklahoma
S.B. 257—Authorizing Oklahoma Arts Council to create an Endowment Fund
Status: Died in committee
Summary: This bill would have authorized the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) to contract with other state agencies and/or nonprofit organizations to create an endowment for the purpose of acquisition, conservation or care of collections that are owned and controlled by OAC.

Oregon
H.R. 5—Review of Public Art
Status: In committee at session adjournment
Summary: This resolution would have requested the Oregon Arts Commission to convene a periodic review of public art displayed in the capitol to ensure that it is welcoming to all Oregonians and reflects the diverse and expansive history and assets of Oregon.

Washington
H.B. 1080—Capitol Budget and Directing Percent for Art Spending
Status: Enacted
Summary: This capital budget bill directs the Washington State Arts Commission to spend at least 80% of the 0.5 percent for art funds designated for works of art in schools, universities and public buildings on the direct acquisition of work for the 2021-2023 biennium.

CULTURAL DISTRICTS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

NASAA tracked 32 bills pertaining to cultural districts and the creative economy. Examples include legislation that would create or modify statewide cultural district certification programs, or that would authorize municipalities to establish local arts and culture tax districts. A few bills focus on tax incentives, such as sales-tax exemptions on works of art, tax abatements in local cultural development districts, and film-and-music-production tax credits. Some bills also focus on how to apply taxes to newer creative goods, such as the wide range of digital media.
Another slate of bills created legislative commissions to study and report on the creative economy as a whole. Other legislation worked to create new opportunities—such as workforce development and live-work spaces—for creative workers.

**Arkansas**  
**S.B. 531**—Arts and Technology Boot Camp  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** Recognizing the importance of Arkansas's creative economy, this bill creates the Legislative Arts and Technology Boot Camp. This legislative boot camp is tasked with creating a report that includes an inventory of Arkansas's statewide arts and cultural assets, an assessment of how to create and maintain a database of these assets, and a plan to leverage current and future assets in arts and technology. Information for the report will be gathered through one or more meetings convened between a cross-section of government employees and groups, organizations, or individuals that work on or are interested in arts and technology. The boot camp will be staffed by the Bureau of Legislative Research and consist of eight appointed senate members and eight appointed house members. The primary house and senate sponsors of the bill or their designees will cochair the boot camp.

**California**  
**S.B. 129**—California Creative Corps Pilot Program  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill amended the budget passed in California A.B. 128 to include $60 million in funding for the California Creative Corps Pilot program. This workforce development initiative will support both pandemic recovery and environmental, civic and social engagement through employing artists to create media and communications campaigns. Funding will place an emphasis on culturally rooted strategies and acknowledge that Black, Indigenous and people of color communities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**California**  
**S.B. 628**—California Creative Workforce Development Act  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill sets creative arts workforce development as a state priority and tasks the California Arts Council with administering a grant program to support "earn and learn" opportunities. The grant would be run in partnership with local and regional entities, support diverse creative projects through employment, and allocate funding specifically for individuals and communities that have faced barriers to employment and participation in creative work, including unemployed, underemployed and displaced creative workers. Grant funding would be contingent on appropriation by the legislature.

**Colorado**  
**S.B. 252**—Community Revitalization and Live-Work Spaces  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill appropriates $65 million from the general fund to support and create the new Community Revitalization Grant program. This grant, administered by Colorado Creative Industries, is designed to foster mixed-use commercial centers and creative projects in these commercial centers that would connect with public or community spaces. Developing mixed live-work space for artists and their families is highly encouraged through this grant program. Grants shall be administered in consultation with the Division of Local Government.

**Georgia**  
**S.B. 6**—Sales and Use Tax Exemptions  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill exempts sales of tickets, fees or charges for admission to 501(c)(3) fine arts performances or exhibitions from sales and use taxes. The exemption expires December 31, 2022.
Hawai‘i

**H.R. 151** and **H.C.R. 182**—Defining Creative Workers and Researching the Transient Accommodations Tax

**Status:** Died in committee

**Summary:** Similar to S.R. 202 and S.C.R. 243, H.R. 151 and H.C.R. 182 would have requested that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study to create a statutory definition of creative workers. These resolutions also would have tasked the Legislative Reference Bureau with developing recommendations on how the Transient Accommodations Tax could be used to assist creative workers.

Hawai‘i

**S.R. 202** and **S.C.R. 243**—Defining Creative Work and Creative Workers

**Status:** Passed (S.R. 202) and died in committee (S.C.R. 243)

**Summary:** This Senate resolution requested that the Legislative Reference Bureau study and develop statutory definitions of creative work and creative workers with the purpose of laying a foundation for future legislation on creative workers. The Legislative Reference Bureau is urged to work with the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts among other state agencies. S.C.R. 243 would have been a concurrent resolution with the Hawai‘i House of Representatives, but died in committee.

Illinois

**H.B. 2395**—Creating a State-Designated Cultural District Program

**Status:** In committee

**Summary:** H.B. 2395 would create state-designated cultural districts. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would be tasked with establishing criteria and guidelines for the program, certifying new districts, providing technical assistance, and collaborating with other state agencies and organizations to maximize the benefits of the new cultural districts.

Indiana

**H.B. 1193**—Film and Media Tax Credit

**Status:** In committee

**Summary:** This bill would create a state film and media tax credit for projects taking place in Indiana. The Indiana Destination Development Corporation would administer the program and be responsible for setting the percentage of expenses allowable for the tax credit. This bill would authorize the corporation to employ a film commissioner to oversee the proposed film and media tax credit.

Indiana

**S.B. 0323**—Music Production Incentive Program

**Status:** Engrossed

**Summary:** This bill would allow the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to establish an incentive program to encourage music production and recording in Indiana. The corporation would be able to hire a music commissioner and provide incentives to applicants. First, the corporation would need to create a report on music production incentives in other states and rely on a future legislative appropriation for funding.

Louisiana

**H.B. 526**—Ad-valorem Tax Exemptions

**Status:** Died in committee

**Summary:** This bill would have made properties that are owned by a nonprofit corporation or association and exclusively used for cultural purposes exempt from ad-valorem taxes.

Maryland

**S.B. 256**—Redefining Artistic Work and Arts and Entertainment Enterprises

**Status:** Enacted

**Summary:** S.B. 256 expands Maryland's definition of artistic work to include works produced through collaboration, photographs, works of cultural expressions, functional art, storytelling and storytelling.
performance, digital or new media design and performance, and any combination thereof. The definition of arts and entertainment enterprises is redefined from "dedicated to visual or performing arts" to "dedicated to creating, selling, or sharing artistic work." This expansion of definition will increase the eligibility of some artists to apply for related tax incentives.

**Massachusetts**

H. 2007 and S. 1229—Categorizing Creative Workers in Publishing as Employees  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** These bills would categorize artists, freelance writers, editors, proofreaders and indexers in the publishing industry as employees unless the individual identifies, works and meets the federal standard for being an independent contractor.

**Massachusetts**

H. 2896—Creating the Artist Workspace Tax Credit  
**Status:** Introduced  
**Summary:** This bill would create an artist workspace tax credit, for which the department of housing and community development could authorize up to $20 million annually. The tax credit would apply to new construction and renovation in a cultural district that provides artists with workspace.

**Massachusetts**

H. 2897, S. 1843, and S. 2247—Creating Artistic Exemptions to State Sales Tax  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** Each of these bills would tweak state sales tax laws to exempt creative works. H. 2897 would exempt from the state sales tax artisan products—defined as visual arts and crafts—sold in cultural districts, while S. 2247 would exempt from the state sales tax one-of-a-kind works of art sold within a cultural district or municipality that includes a cultural district. Regardless of location, S. 1843 would exempt from the state sales tax all sales of original works of art under $5,000.

**Mississippi**

H.B. 413—Mississippi Gospel Music Commission  
**Status:** Died in committee  
**Summary:** This bill would have created the Mississippi Gospel Music Commission—on which the executive director of the Mississippi Arts Commission or their designee would sit—to promote the study, appreciation and support of gospel music with a focus on economic development throughout the state. The new commission would have been charged with inventorying the state’s gospel music assets and to coordinate with the Mississippi Arts Commission, among other agencies, to ensure a comprehensive approach. The Gospel Music Commission also would have made recommendations regarding the establishment of a permanent Mississippi Office of Gospel Music. The bill would have created a Gospel Music Trail, to be administered by the Division of Tourism in partnership with the new commission.

**Nebraska**

L.B. 39—Funding Source Designated for Urban Creative Districts  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** L.B. 39 tasks the Nebraska Arts Council with creating a competitive grant program to award funds to first-class cities with a creative district that are not receiving state assistance under the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act. Funding will come from the Support the Arts Cash Fund (Nebraska’s fund for aiding cultural districts) and will support capital assets, video projection mapping, and video or audio artistic expression presentations. Grants will have a minimum award of $1.5 million. The legislation also provides a new funding mechanism for the Support the Arts Cash Fund: 83% of the unused 30% of sales tax revenue sourced from retailer and box office sales at sports arena facilities will be deposited into the Support the Arts Cash Fund.
Nebraska
L.B. 264—Creative Districts Renaming and Grant Appropriation
Status: Died in committee
Summary: This bill would have renamed Nebraska's Creative Districts as Cultural Districts and shown the legislature's intent to annually appropriate $100,000 for the Nebraska Arts Council's current competitive creative district grant program.

Nebraska
L.B. 380—Grants for Creative Districts
Status: Enacted
Summary: As part of Nebraska's larger government funding bill, an appropriation of $2 million is made for a competitive grant program for Nebraska's creative districts. The funding is to be divided evenly between FY2022 and FY2023 and should follow rules 82-313 for the Nebraska Arts Council.

New York
A. 00267 and S. 01358—Establish Arts and Cultural Districts Program
Status: Engrossed (A. 00267) and in committee (S. 01358)
Summary: These bills would direct the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to create criteria and guidelines for the designation of arts and cultural districts. Criteria for the districts would include attracting artists, encouraging business and job development in existing institutions, attracting tourism, enhancing local property values, and fostering local cultural development. NYSCA also would be tasked with developing guidelines to assist cities, towns and villages in applying for certification. Bill S. 01358 would include state-supported assistance for designated cultural districts via NYSCA and the Urban Development Corporation and would expand on administrative power and guidelines for the program.

New York
A. 00604—Defining Authenticator
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would define authenticator under the arts and cultural affairs law to mean a person or entity recognized as an expert regarding authenticity of fine or visual art. The bill would set rules for bringing civil actions against authenticators.

Oklahoma
H.B. 1708—Creating the Oklahoma Tourism Ignition Program
Status: Died in chamber
Summary: This bill would have created the Oklahoma Tourism Ignition Program, to be administered by the Oklahoma Arts Council and marketed by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. As part of the program, municipalities would have been able to apply for and match a $5,000 grant for creating a positive economic impact through encouraging tourism.

Oklahoma
S.B. 481—Cultural Districts Initiative Act
Status: Died in committee
Summary: This bill would have tasked the Oklahoma Arts Council with administering a newly created cultural districts program, as well as providing technical assistance for districts certified through the program. Districts would assist in attracting and retaining artists; encouraging entrepreneurship, establishing and promoting cultural tourism, preserving the community's authentic cultural identity, and/or offering arts and cultural programming.
Pennsylvania
H.B. 561—Establishing the Cultural Development District Program
Status: In committee
Summary: H.B. 561 would charge the Department of Community and Economic Development with administering a newly created Cultural Development District program. The legislation would set guidelines for the program, which include criteria for eligibility and certification: Cultural Development Districts would require a public hearing and resolution/ordinance to be created and would not be allowed to exist for longer than five years. The districts would provide a tax abatement to residents and businesses that move to the district that would last for five years and then phase out.

Texas
H.B. 1373—Planning for Renting State Facilities to Artists
Status: In committee at session adjournment
Summary: This bill would have tasked the Texas Facilities Commission and the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) with conducting a study on the feasibility of leasing state agency space or property to artists for practice and performance. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would have been charged with collaborating with TCA to create a similar study for public institutions of higher education.

Washington
S.B. 5272—Suspending Various Licensing Fees
Status: Enacted
Summary: S.B. 5272 suspends for one year the annual fees for the license needed to be designated as a nonprofit arts organization. The bill also suspends for one year the liquor license fee for civic or convention centers with facilities for sports, entertainment or conventions that have more than one location to sell liquor, as well as the beer and wine license fees for theatres.

ARTS EDUCATION  Return to TOC

Legislative action on arts education this year typically supported increased opportunities. As states continue to recognize the value of arts education, legislatures have enacted policies to provide additional schooling that includes arts enrichment activities to make up for losses during the pandemic; considered the importance of adding arts to the traditional science, technology, engineering and math focus; and expanding course offerings to include media arts. Other states considered new grant programs that would more deeply involve cultural institutions and museums in student and adult education, as well as new funding sources to provide similar grants for arts education.

California
A.B. 128—Creative Youth Development
Status: Enacted
Summary: Inclusive with funding for the California Arts Council (CAC), this budget bill appropriates $40 million to support CAC's Creative Youth Development programs. While the exact use of the funding is still in development, it will restart four youth development programs that were no longer offered by CAC and continue to support a fifth program, all aimed at filling the institutional gaps in opportunity that youth face. Funding for this program is available until June 30, 2024.

Illinois
H.B. 2956 and H.B. 4008—Arts Education and Arts Therapy Programs for Low-Income Communities
Status: In committee
Summary: H.B. 2956 would appropriate $10 million from the general fund to the Illinois State Board of Education to provide grants for after-school, arts based programs in schools with a low-income pupil count greater than 70%. The bill also would appropriate $10 million from the general fund to the Illinois
Arts Council Agency for community art education and therapy programs in census tracts that are 125% below poverty level.

Similarly, H.B. 4008 would appropriate $40 million from the general revenue fund to the Illinois Arts Council Agency for after school, arts based programs in communities that are at or below 125% of the poverty level.

Massachusetts
H. 534—Changing STEM to STEAM
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would add arts to the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) advisory council, as well as amend current general laws to add arts to the STEM acronym wherever it is written.

Minnesota
H. F. 950, S.F. 788, and H.F. 1081—Adding Media Arts as a Course Offering
Status: In committee at session adjournment
Summary: These bills would have added media arts to the offering of arts programs that elementary and middle schools could require. The bills also would remove language designating that academic standards for art can be set by the local school district. H.F. 1081 also would have suspended implementation of revised arts academic standards until 2022, as well as exempting performing or visual arts teachers applying for a tier 1, 2 or 3 license from needing a bachelor's degree if they had five years relevant work experience.

New York
A. 02525—Education Grants for Museums
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would authorize the commissioner of education to develop a grant program for museums and cultural organizations in partnership with relevant community representatives. The grants would support education related activities for students and continuing education, and eligible organizations would have to be located in or serve low-income urban, suburban or rural communities. Grant funding is dependent on later appropriation.

North Carolina
H. 82—Summer Learning Choice
Status: Enacted
Summary: H. 82 creates a "school extension learning recovery and enrichment program" outside of the traditional school calendar to alleviate the negative learning impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is targeted to help at-risk students and, empower local districts to create their own plans and includes music and art as possible enrichment activities for students K-8.

Texas
Status: Withdrawn from schedule, in committee at session adjournment
Summary: These bills would allow high school students to graduate with one credit in fine arts or career and technology education instead of just fine arts.

OTHER SAA POLICY DIRECTIVES Return to TOC

State legislatures have the authority to enact arts focused policy directives and task state agencies with implementing them. This year, bills in nine states aimed to realize policy directives by focusing on new state arts agency programs ranging from new capital grant programs to providing payroll services to nonprofit arts and cultural institutions. States examined creating new positions for state arts leaders like...
poet laureates and examined new programs welding together arts and tourism and arts and rural development.

Arkansas
S.B. 402—Creating the Arkansas Cultural Institutions Trust Fund
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill created the Arkansas Cultural Institutions Trust Fund to fund major capital improvement grants for cultural nonprofits that acquire, conserve, research, communicate or exhibit works of art, artifacts, or works of cultural and/or historic significance—including those related to the heritage of Arkansas—for the public’s benefit. The funding—which is currently unallocated—can come from grants, donations, and/or transfers made by any person or government agency, and the grant program will be administered by the Division of Arkansas Heritage. Criteria for grant adjudication will include the estimated economic and tourism impact of the project.

California
S.B. 805—Arts and Culture Nonprofit Payroll Services
Status: Vetoed
Summary: This bill would have required the California Arts Council (CAC) to create and administer the California Nonprofit Performing Arts Paymaster program. CAC would have contracted with multiple nonprofit paymasters to provide payroll services for nonprofit performing arts organizations, including those that are not formally a 501(c)(3). A Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund also would have been created (appropriation contingent on the legislature) to provide grants for small nonprofit arts organizations to pay employees at least a minimum wage.

Massachusetts
H. 3381—Chris Walsh Disaster and Emergency Aid Fund for Artists
Status: In committee
Summary: These bills would create the Rep. Chris Walsh Massachusetts Artists Disaster and Emergency Aid Fund for the purpose of distributing aid to any Massachusetts artists who have suffered a disaster or emergency. The fund would be administered by the state treasurer and would rely on donations and investing any money held for fund instruments.

Massachusetts
H. 3383—Creating the State Poet Laureate Honorary Position
Status: In committee
Summary: House bill 3383 would create the honorary state position of poet laureate, to be nominated biennially by a five-person committee—to include two Mass Cultural Council board members—and appointed by the governor. The poet laureate would be responsible for promoting a greater appreciation of poetry.

Massachusetts
S. 2250—Creating the Honorary Position of Musician Laureate
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would create the honorary position of musician laureate, who would be able to act as the governor’s advisor for musical matters as well as write and/or perform music to commemorate important events. Potential laureates would be nominated biennially by a newly formed Musician Laureate Nominating Committee—on which a member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council would sit—and appointed by the governor.
Nebraska

L.B. 384—Funding for Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment

Status: Enacted

Summary: L.B. 384 increases the general fund appropriation for the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment from $500,000 to an amount not to exceed $1 million per year through 2028. The bill also creates a new grant program for funding film in Nebraska, to be administered by the Department of Economic Development.

New York

A. 07442—Reduced Sentence Time for Individuals Who Are Incarcerated through Arts Programming

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would allow individuals who are incarcerated and who participate in programs offered by organizations, including arts and culture organizations, to earn good behavior allowance credits that reduce the length of the individual’s sentence.

New York

S. 04437—Youth Writers Honorarium

Status: In committee

Summary: S. 04437 would allow the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to award a yearly honorarium to 10 writers between the ages of 12 and 16. NYSCA would be tasked with creating the guidelines, however funding would require separate legislative action.

Texas

H.B. 2139—Splitting the State Musician Role for Classical and Nonclassical Genres

Status: In committee at session adjournment

Summary: This bill would have taken the position of Texas state musician and split it into two separate positions, one for classical music and one for nonclassical music.

Wisconsin

A.B. 422, S.B. 428 and S.B. 111—Rural and General Creative Economy Grant Programs

Status: In committee

Summary: Bills A.B. 422 and S.B. 428 would create the Rural Creative Economy grant program in the Department of Tourism, to be administered by the Wisconsin Arts Board. Rural businesses, nonprofits, municipal and county government, and business development organizations in communities with populations under 20,000 would be eligible for grants to support creative businesses, products or services through job creation; capacity development; workforce training; community and sector planning, development and engagement; and creating products or services with artistic, cultural, creative or aesthetic qualities. Grants would be up to $40,000 and would require a 1:1 match. S.B. 428 also would make an initial appropriation of $250,000 for the grant program.

S.B. 111 would create a similar Creative Economy Development Initiative Grants program, which would allow the Wisconsin Arts Board to award up to $500,000 from the Arts Board’s annual appropriation in this bill to organizations, individuals and businesses. The grants would be capped at $40,000 and be used to support creative industries, job creation, arts education, workforce training and development, and economic development.

COVID-19  Return to TOC

States continued to take a variety of approaches in responding to one of the sectors hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, arts and culture. Alongside the executive branch, legislatures have begun to appropriate federal funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act to bolster the creative economy and mitigate the effects of the pandemic. The forms of relief varied often, coming either as part of targeted
programs or woven into larger multisector relief packages. Other states, seeing the unique impact COVID-19 had on arts and culture, also took the opportunity to propose studies and form new commissions on the state of the creative economy.

Because this list focuses solely on legislative action, it is not comprehensive of the actions taken by states in response to COVID-19. NASAA's State Arts Agency Revenues: Fiscal Year 2021 report contains information on all supplemental Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding, and our Funding web page will contain more information on ARP Act supplemental funding when available. For more information on gubernatorial actions, from supplemental relief to reopening policies, contact NASAA.

**Arizona**

H.B. 2755 and S.B. 1385—Emergency Funding for Relief and Reopening  
**Status:** Died in committee  
**Summary:** These bills would have appropriated $5 million from the state general fund to the Arizona arts trust fund for grants to assist the arts industry in reopening and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**California**

S.B. 87—Creating the Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill appropriates $2.075 billion from the general fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate to establish the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant program, in which arts, entertainment and recreation businesses are considered a funding priority. Of that amount, $50 million is reserved for eligible nonprofit cultural institutions, to be allocated in a single round of funding. The legislation bases the award amounts—from $5,000 to $25,000—on annual gross revenue and limits the program to businesses with less than $2.5 million in gross revenue. Nonprofit cultural institutions do not have a limit to their revenue when applying.

S.B. 151 and A.B. 176—Creating and Amending Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant Programs  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** S.B. 151 creates the California Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant program within the California Office of Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) and allocates $50 million (which was appropriated in S.B. 129) in grants to nonprofit performing arts organizations. S.B. 151 also creates the California Venues Grant program within CalOSBA and would allocate $150 million (which was appropriated in A.B. 128) to eligible independent live event venues. In addition, this bill allows for distributing the $50 million appropriated in S.B. 87 to nonprofit cultural institutions over more than just a single round of funding. A.B. 176 pares back the initial allocation in S.B. 151 to $49.5 million and allows granting to nonprofit fiscal sponsors without regard to their annual gross revenue. A.B. 176 also affects the California Venues Program: grants from this program will not be considered in gross income tax calculations and also will be eligible for recapture by the state if grantees did not meet the conditions of the grant.

**Colorado**

H.B. 1285—Emergency Funds for Arts Relief  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill appropriates $3.5 million from the general fund to the Creative Industries Cash Fund for Colorado Creative Industries's ongoing arts relief program. The bill also makes possible an additional $12 million in funding, which was later transferred for arts relief. An additional $1.5 million was appropriated for use in relief programs targeting organizations that are by and for historically marginalized and under-resourced communities (as defined in this bill). $5 million, and up to an...
additional $1 million, also were appropriated from the general fund to the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media operational account cash fund.

**Colorado**  
*S.B. 001*—Creating a Relief Program for Arts, Culture and Entertainment  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill establishes a relief program for arts, culture, and entertainment artists or crew members and organizations that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant program is administered by Colorado Creative Industries and an initial appropriation of $7.5 million is made. Although technically passed in 2020, NASAA included it in the 2021 Legislative Roundup because the special session in which it was passed took place after the 2020 Roundup was published.

**Connecticut**  
*H.B. 6689* and *S.B. 1202*—Supplemental Funding for the Humanities  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** These bills appropriate up to $20 million for FY2022 and up to $10.7 million for FY2023—depending on the amount of previously unexpended balances—to the Department of Economic and Community Development, to be made available for grants from Connecticut Humanities. The first round of grants is in collaboration with Connecticut Office of the Arts and supports arts, culture and humanities institutions.

**Hawai‘i**  
*S.R. 201, S.C.R. 242, H.R. 152* and *H.C.R. 183*—Creative Resurgence Task Force  
**Status:** Passed (S.R. 201, S.C.R. 242) and died in committee (H.R. 152, H.C.R. 183)  
**Summary:** Recognizing the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic to the arts and culture sector, the passed senate resolutions created the Creative Resurgence Task Force to build and foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture and the humanities through establishing and examining policies relevant to taxation, creative workers, the creative economy, and the larger creative sector. Task force membership was outlined in this bill. H.R. 152 and H.C.R. 183 were similar resolutions in the Hawai‘i house that both died in committee.

**Indiana**  
*H.B. 1569*—Indiana Stages Relief  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** H.B. 1569 would appropriate $7 million from federal funds for COVID-19 relief via the general fund to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for relief grants to performing arts venues. Operators, producers, and promoters in the music, comedy, and performing arts industry would be eligible if they had a decrease of 70% or greater in their revenue. Grant amounts would be awarded up to 20% of the applicants’ pre-COVID revenue.

**Louisiana**  
*H.B. 642*—Save Our Screens Grant Program  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** H.B. 642 creates the Save our Screens grant program to provide up to $10,000 per screen for movie theaters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The $4.5 million in total funding is allocated from the larger Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program—which is ARP funded—and is to be administered by the Treasury.

**Maine**  
*L.D. 1566*—Live Venue, Artists and Public Art Recovery Grants  
**Status:** Carried over to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature  
**Summary:** L.D. 1566 would charge the Department of Economic and Community Development with creating and administering a fund to provide grants to live entertainment venues, performers and
workers as well as grants to support larger public art recovery. The grants would compensate businesses, performers and workers for lost revenue due to state-directed closures and the pandemic. The public art relief program would target governmental agencies that desire to install or stage public art. $10 million would be appropriated from the general fund and $20 million from any 2021 federal relief funds targeting COVID-19, with funding being split 50% for businesses, 25% for performers and workers, and 25% for public art.

Maryland
S.B. 496—Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs and Families Act
Status: Enacted
Summary: This bill appropriates $5 million from Maryland’s Recovery Now Fund for an emergency grant program to be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council, targeting artists, art districts and arts organizations.

Massachusetts
S. 2246—Rebuilding the Commonwealth’s Cultural Future
Status: In committee
Summary: This bill would create the Massachusetts Cultural Economy COVID-19 Recovery Fund and appropriate $200 million in ARP Act funding to seed the new fund. Mass Cultural Council would administer the fund and provide grants to nonprofit and for-profit arts and culture organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution of funds would be required to consider racial, geographic and programmatic diversity as well as equity.

Minnesota
H.F. 2637 and S.F. 2551—Cultural Community Rescue Restart Grant Program
Status: In committee at session adjournment
Summary: These two bills would have appropriated $100 million from the state fiscal recovery fund—originating from ARP funds—to the commissioner of employment and economic development for a tiered relief grant program. Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that experienced at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and had previously received funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, a regional arts council, the Minnesota Humanities Center or the Minnesota Historical Society would be eligible.

Nebraska
L.B. 566—Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act
Status: Enacted
Summary: L.B. 566 appropriates $15 million from the general fund and an uncapped amount from federal relief funds to support capital construction projects for nonprofit organizations that have been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Only nonprofits that are related to arts, culture or the humanities (including sports, horticulture, zoology and botany) are eligible. Grants will be up to $15 million depending on the cost of the capital project.

New Hampshire
S.B. 132—Save Our Granite Stages Act
Status: Died in chamber
Summary: S.B. 132 would have created the Save Our Granite Stages Fund, to be run by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, for providing funding to for-profit and nonprofit live venues affected in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund would have used federal funds in response to COVID-19, as well as donations, grants and gifts. Organizations and businesses that did not receive a grant from the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program would have been eligible.
**New Jersey**  
*S. 3521*—Economic Relief for Arts Organizations  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** S. 3521 makes $15 million available to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) and the New Jersey Council on the Arts (NJCA) to support arts and culture organizations in need. Funds are source-agnostic, able to come from any federal funding that is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is to be split 50% for NJEDA and NJCA, with NJEDA tasked with supporting for-profit arts and cultural organizations and NJCA tasked with supporting nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

**New Jersey**  
*S. 3982*—Economic Recovery for Arts Organizations  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** S.B. 3982 appropriates $135 million from the New Jersey Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, which was established pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. $10 million of this appropriation is earmarked for financial assistance to eligible arts and culture for-profit organizations, and an additional $45 million is set aside for businesses and nonprofits.

**New York**  
*S. 02503*—COVID-19 General Relief and Recovery  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** As part of Senate Bill 2503, $40 million in relief funding has been appropriated from the general fund to provide recovery grants for organizations. The resulting general operating support grants should value regional distribution and prioritize small and midsize organizations.

**New York**  
*A. 08410*—Authorizing Local Governments to Require COVID-19 Vaccines for Places of Entertainment  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would authorize local governments to pass laws, rules or executive orders requiring performers, athletes, employees, attendees or any other category of person to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter a place of entertainment. Exemptions for vaccinations may not be made based on a person’s place of residency or employment.

**North Carolina**  
*H. 562*—Supporting the Arts and Recovery  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would have appropriated $8 million over two years from the general fund to the North Carolina Arts Council for grants to arts nonprofits. Grants would have supported arts and cultural programming.

**Ohio**  
*S.B. 234*—Creating a New Performing Arts Relief Grant Program  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** S.B. 234 would appropriate $50 million from the general revenue fund for use in a new performing arts relief grant program. The Department of Development would administer the program. Performing arts organizations and cultural arts museums that are partially funded or operated by a political subdivision of Ohio, state institution or nonprofit would be eligible for grants—up to $3 million—to support payroll, employee recruitment, rent or mortgage, operating costs, and expenditures for health and safety.
Texas
H.B. 140—Relief Funding for the Arts
Status: In committee
Summary: H.B. 140 would appropriate $11 million from ARP relief funding to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA). The funding would be used for arts and cultural grants targeted toward relief from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as environmental emergencies. An additional $10 million would be appropriated from ARP funds to TCA for summer education grants. Another $10 million would be appropriated from ARP funds to the Texas Music Office to provide rebates for eligible music venues and festival promoters impacted by COVID-19.

Utah
H.B. 0003—Supplemental Appropriations for Create in Utah
Status: Enacted
Summary: House Bill 0003 appropriates $5 million from general funds by the legislature for use in phase 3 of Create in Utah, which was open for nonprofits from April 16-30, 2021. An additional, for-profit phase 3 of grants opened on August 23, 2021. Create in Utah is a COVID-19 relief program for arts and culture that began in 2020 with previous legislation, H.B. 5010.

Utah
S.B. 1001—Amendments to Relief Funding
Status: Enacted
Summary: S.B. 1001 would supplement additional funding for COVID-19 relief. An additional $2 million would be transferred to the Department of Cultural & Community Engagement for administrative services, as well as an additional $5 million in ARP funds for Create in Utah grants. The bill directs the Department of Heritage & Arts (now Cultural & Community Engagement) to use the $5 million in ARP funds before general funds provided for the same purpose, with the general funds lapsing at the end of FY2021.

Washington
S.B. 5092—Supplemental ARP Funding, Relief Grants and Creative Economic Development
Status: Enacted
Summary: S.B. 5092 appropriates $1 million from ARP funds (in the general fund) to support programming and general operating support for arts organizations. An additional $2 million in federal fiscal recovery funds was appropriated "solely for the Washington State Arts Commission to stabilize, recover, and preserve the state's arts and cultural organizations in light of pandemic conditions." The $2 million is to be split into $1 million for FY2022 and $1 million for FY2023.

S.B. 5092 also includes $150,000 in FY2022 and FY2023 to fund a sector lead position to support creative economic development within the department of commerce; $25 million in federal funds for grants—to be administered by the Working Washington grant program—to for-profit and nonprofit organizations in the arts, heritage and science sectors, including live entertainment venues; and $351,000 in FY2022 and $332,000 in FY2023 to contract with a nonprofit organization to create a state creative economy work group to develop a strategic plan to improve Washington's creative economy and address economic, social justice and business development goals. A representative from the Washington State Arts Commission will sit on the work group.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION  Return to TOC

Although initiatives that foster diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices can exist across all the categories of legislation presented above, state legislatures also are considering bills that specifically address histories of inequality and discrimination. The following bills take proactive measures to include
more equitable practices involving arts and culture across state arts agencies, grant making, public education, urban development and creative placemaking.

**Florida**  
**S. 2500**—Capital Outlay Grants for African American Culture and History  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** This bill appropriates $30,000,000 from ARP funds via the General Revenue Fund for a new capital grant program for organizations that "highlight the contributions, culture, or history of African-Americans." The Florida Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Historical Commission will jointly administer the expedited program, with priority given to facilities that would be constructed in new areas of cultural significance, enhance the aesthetic of places named for African Americans, or restore facilities on the National Register of Historic Places. Large grants will require a 50% match.

**Hawai'i**  
**H.C.R. 189** and **H.R. 158**—Repatriation of Native Hawaiian Art, Cultural Items and Iwi Kupuna  
**Status:** Passed  
**Summary:** House Concurrent Resolution 189 and House Resolution 158 support the international and domestic repatriation of Native Hawaiian art, cultural items, and iwi kupuna (ancestral bones) and call upon relevant global, federal and state authorities to continue to facilitate repatriation of these items.

**Maryland**  
**H.B. 310** and **S.B. 323**—Capital Grant Program  
**Status:** Enacted  
**Summary:** H.B. 310 and S.B. 323 (cross-filed) establish the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program, to be run by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) and a new full-time dedicated staff position. For fiscal years 2024-2029, the governor shall include an annual appropriation of $3 million for the program, and the entire amount is to be granted by MSAC—in consultation with the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization—to organizations for capital improvements. Eligible organizations must be open to the public, provide cultural education or experiences or already participate in MSAC's grants for organizations or community arts development program, and have an operating

**Statewide DEI Initiatives**

Beyond legislation that addresses equity involving artistic and cultural practices, many state arts agencies also are adopting agency level policies to foster equity across all their programming. For examples, see:

- **In Pursuit of Equity: Four Case Studies of State Arts Agencies**
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in State Arts Agency Public Art Programs: A Roundtable Report**
budget of less than $3 million. Criteria for the applicants must include a plan to make the project available for use by people of color and individuals with low income.

**Massachusetts**  
*S. 2241*—Commission on Artistic Representation in the Massachusetts State House  
**Status:** In committee  
**Summary:** This bill would create a special legislative commission on artistic representation in the Massachusetts State House. The commission would be tasked with identifying racially or culturally insensitive art, mural, or exhibits, suggesting their removal and promoting diverse representation. The Mass Cultural Council executive director or their designee would sit on this commission.

**Minnesota**  
*H.F. 784* and *S.F. 800*—Funding for Ending Systemic Racism  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** As part of a larger bill to promote human rights and end systemic racism, H.F. 784 and S.F. 800 would have appropriated $70 million from general funds to the Minnesota State Arts Board to establish an African American Advisory committee. This committee would have created grants to support established and emerging African American arts and cultural organizations in their work to develop, expand and preserve programming, places and communities.

**Minnesota**  
*H.F. 1911*—Adding Diversity to Accountability Measures  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** Programs receiving funding from Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage fund would have been required to assess whether the funding celebrated cultural diversity or reached diverse audiences.

**Minnesota**  
*H.F. 2552* and *S.F. 2368*—Culturally Diverse Heritage Preservaton Grant Program  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** These bills would have appropriated $3 million over two years from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create grants for organizations that preserve and honor the diverse cultural heritages of Minnesota and that continue to engage communities to build their identity and culture. Priority would have been given to under-resourced organizations.

**Minnesota**  
*S.F. 2528* and *H.F. 2465*—Modifying Board Membership and New Grant Program for Descendants of Slavery  
**Status:** In committee at session adjournment  
**Summary:** These bills would have required the Minnesota State Arts Board to include no fewer than three members who are American descendants of slavery. The bills also would appropriate $16 million over FY2022 and FY2023 to the Minnesota State Arts Board for grants to organizations and individuals who are American descendants of slavery, to be created in consultation with experts in the African slave experience and the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.

**Washington, D.C.**  
*B24-0285*—Equity in the Arts and Humanities Amendment Act  
**Status:** Passed  
**Summary:** This fiscal bill addresses equitable funding for the arts in the subsection titled "Equity in the Arts and Humanities Amendment Act of 2021." The changes include allowing compensation of up to $250 per day for grant panelists and eliminating the grant funding dedicated to the Arts and Humanities Cohort or the National Capital Arts Cohort. Funding from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities instead will be granted to any eligible arts organization for rent or mortgage expenses, general operating support, the Humanities Grant Program, and other art grant programs.
The bill also decreases the Commission's membership from 18 to 16 until 2023, 14 until mid-2024, and finally sets the commission at 12 members starting in 2024.

**Recent Trends in State Legislation**

To provide a longitudinal analysis of state legislative action relative to the arts, data from the 2021 State Legislative Roundup and the six previous editions of NASAA's annual summary of state legislation are visualized below. This analysis is a useful tool for recognizing trends and tracking the history of cultural policy throughout the country.

**Number of Bills Featured in the State Legislative Roundup, by Year (2015-2021)**
Number of Bills Summarized in the State Legislative Roundup, by Category (2015-2021)

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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The above chart reflects the bill categories NASAA has used since 2017 to track legislation. To enable a longitudinal comparison of six years of state legislative research, NASAA recategorized some bills from the 2016 and 2015 State Legislative Roundup reports, as NASAA has amended some of the categories since it first published the roundup in 2015. Additionally, the Public Art category has been updated to include imagery and art in public spaces, which explains the large increase in legislation in 2020. The Other SAA Policy Directives category was added in 2016, and the COVID-19 and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion categories were added in 2020.
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For more information, contact NASAA Research Associate Declan Wicks, who authored this roundup in November 2021.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the nonpartisan membership organization that serves the nation’s state arts agencies. NASAA helps state arts agencies fulfill their many citizen service roles by providing knowledge services, representation and leadership programs that strengthen the state arts agency community. NASAA also serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352 or visit nasaa-arts.org.

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