

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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## Report to Councils December 2021

NASAA offers state arts agency board members rapid insight into federal and state arts legislation, equity resources, and more. Share this edition with your colleagues!

### Federal Arts Funding and You

Congress avoided a government shutdown early this month by passing another continuing resolution, this time funding the government until February 18. So the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is still waiting for its appropriation to be enacted for fiscal year 2022. [You may recall](#) that the House proposed funding the NEA at \$201 million, and the Senate proposed \$182.5 million. While NASAA and other arts advocates are urging support for the House's number, either represents a significant increase over the agency's current budget of \$167.5 million. Please join NASAA in encouraging Congress to support \$201 million for the NEA. Emphasize how additional funding for the NEA will benefit states across the country through the [strong partnership](#) that allocates 40% of federal grant dollars to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

### National League of Cities Highlights Creativity and Economic Renewal



Montana Arts Council Chair and Bozeman Mayor Cyndy Andrus authored an article that emphasizes the critical role the arts and creativity play in postpandemic economic recovery. In [Creativity Sparks Economic Renewal](#), published by the National League of Cities, Andrus highlights [recent NASAA research](#) showing how creativity connects the dots among the arts and jobs, bustling businesses, tourism and rural vitality—as well as contributing to community resiliency. If you've written an article or op-ed, [let NASAA know](#) so we can share your success with other states!

### State Arts Legislation under Consideration in 2021

NASAA's [State Legislative Roundup 2021](#) highlights 131 bills considered by state legislatures this year that are important to state arts agencies and their constituencies. Whether bills were enacted, vetoed or at other stages, the Roundup organizes them by state and by category (arts education, creative economy, COVID-19 and more) and features a visual analysis of state legislative trends over the past seven years.

### Equity Resources for State Arts Agencies

To help ensure all receive the benefits of the arts, many state arts agencies are taking intentional steps to dismantle barriers to support and to make their policies, programs and

services more equitable and accessible. NASAA's three-part [State Arts Agency Equity Strategies](#) series offers examples. Learn about equity-centered planning, how to develop meaningful relationships with diverse communities and recommendations for making public art programs more equitable. NASAA is a hub for [state arts agency equity program and strategy models](#). We also provide data and analysis support via our updated [Visualizing Equity in Grant Making](#) data visualizations, which use state arts agency grant data to help your agency understand populations served, compare program data and reach, see changes over time, and compare your state to national norms. Find these and other resources on our [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) page.

### 2021 State of the States Address

NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux [addressed members](#) at our annual Business Bash. Her remarks focused on the incredible job state arts agencies are doing to advance the recovery of the creative sector. Pam's talk highlighted work at a dozen agencies.



### 2022 NASAA Board of Directors

State arts agencies elected a new NASAA chair—Omari Rush of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs—and three new members to NASAA's board: Alice Bioff of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Michael Bobbitt of Mass Cultural Council and Sue Gens of the Minnesota State Arts Board. We look forward to working with our [2022 board](#)!



Omari Rush Alice Bioff Michael Bobbitt Sue Gens

### Learning on Demand: NASAA Learning Series, Creative Aging, HUD Grants

To broaden your understanding of issues critical to state arts agencies, check out NASAA's YouTube page for recordings of past learning sessions. Recent uploads include:

- [NASAA 2021 Learning Series playlist](#)
- [Creative Aging Institute playlist](#)
- [Federal Resources, Creative Placemaking and HUD's Section 108 Loan Program](#)

### Save the Date for NASAA Assembly 2022

We are planning an in-person conference next year in Kansas City, Missouri! [NASAA Assembly 2022](#), taking place September 21-24, welcomes state arts agency council members and staff for learning, networking and arts experiences. More to come soon!

### Join Us to Go All In for the Arts

NASAA is here for you—100% dedicated to empowering your agency with the advocacy, resources and support you need to succeed. That's why we're going all in and hope you'll join us! Now until December 31 your gift to NASAA will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 as part of our **All In for the Arts** campaign. [Please make a gift to NASAA](#) to double your impact on your agency (and all state arts agencies) in 2022. Thank you!