

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the professional association of America's 56 state and jurisdictional arts councils. **Arts and creativity strengthen our nation—and NASAA strengthens state arts agencies.** Together with our members, we work to make the arts a valued and accessible part of everyday life and to ensure that the economic, educational, civic and health benefits of the arts are available to all.

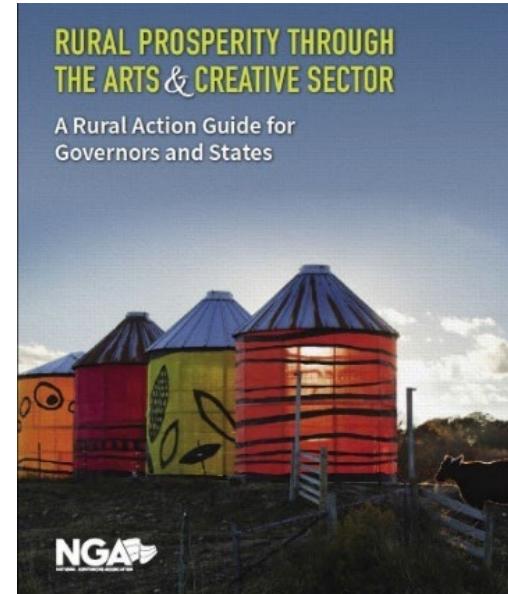
Representation

NASAA represents the federal policy interests of state arts agencies on Capitol Hill. We advocate on your behalf to **grow the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and protect the flexibility of NEA funds for state arts agencies.** At stake for state arts agencies are 40% of all NEA grant funds. These dollars support state arts agency staffing, grant making and technical assistance services, helping every state and jurisdiction to address its own needs and priorities.

These federal funds are not guaranteed—they must be appropriated annually via a directive renewed by Congress. This makes NASAA's policy representation role critical. Through NASAA, all state voices are joined together in a focused, nonpartisan message that boosts everyone's clout.

Another representation role NASAA plays is to **elevate the good work of state arts agencies to important policy audiences.** For instance:

- A collaborative research venture with the [National Governors Association](#) advanced the arts as a critical asset for rural development.
- We worked with the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) to promote the role of the arts in economic recovery after the pandemic. (See page 20 of [State Legislatures Magazine](#).)
- NASAA promoted the importance of the creative economy to policymakers through [Governing](#) magazine and the [National League of Cities](#).



Through these and other cross-sector collaborations, NASAA promotes the good work of state arts agencies and expands the ranks of allies who can support the arts.

Empowering State Advocacy

NASAA provides [advocacy tools](#) state arts agencies and state arts advocates use to make a compelling case for state support of the arts. For example:

- **Economic Impact:** NASAA [dashboards](#) using U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data illustrate the economic power of the creative industries in every state. Our [Arts and Economic Recovery Research](#) documents how the arts boost economic recovery in hard times—an important argument to support state investment.
- **Messaging:** Garnering support across the political spectrum is essential. To this end, NASAA commissioned framing research that resulted in the [Arts and Creativity Strengthen our Nation](#) message guide.
- **Legislative Monitoring:** NASAA monitors hundreds of bills with the potential to affect the arts or state arts agencies. We [synthesize the legislation](#) and alert members to the trends.

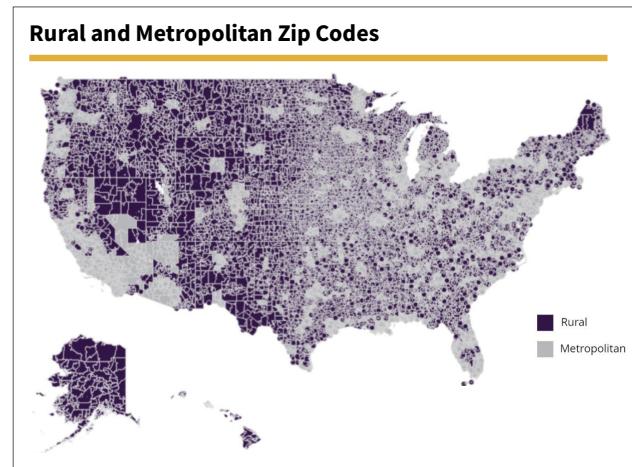


Photo courtesy of Delaware Arts Alliance

Authoritative Information

NASAA supplies [information state arts agencies use](#) to shape their policies, programs and funding. NASAA provides:

- **Comparative Data:** To help every state benchmark itself against its peers, NASAA provides comprehensive data on agency [appropriations](#) and [grant making](#).
- **Innovative Practices:** NASAA is a clearinghouse for information on programs, policies and services state arts agencies use to serve communities. Popular topics include [COVID-19](#) adaptations, [equity](#), [creative economy](#) and [arts in health](#).
- **Equity:** NASAA helps state arts agencies hone their strategies for [advancing equity](#), with an emphasis on [equitable grant making](#). As part of that work, we provide [customized demographic analyses](#) of state arts agency grant data. We also provide extensive professional development opportunities around diversity, equity and inclusion.



Stronger Together

NASAA provides [online and in-person](#) **professional development** to nurture knowledge, skills and relationships for state arts agencies. Members draw on these services for ongoing learning and networking.

- **Peer Groups:** NASAA offers forums for state arts agency staff and council members to consider issues and challenges in job-alike groups. We support a People of Color Affinity Group and People of Color Mentorship Program.
- **Conferences:** Our Assembly and leadership convenings, supplemented by virtual learning offerings, bring state arts agencies together to be informed and inspired by one another and by outside experts.
- **Communications:** NASAA provides peer group listservs and timely communications that connect state arts agencies with each other and with the [latest news](#) affecting our field.



NASAA conference, photo by Lena McBean, Edwin Remsberg Photography

Each state arts agency's presence in the NASAA community enriches the learning available to all members. NASAA's participatory [governance](#) and [planning](#) practices give every state and jurisdiction a voice in national decisions.

The Beauty of Cost Sharing

NASAA dues are assessed on sliding scale based on an agency's budget size: smaller agencies pay less than their larger counterparts. NASAA then leverages dues funds to secure additional public and private matching dollars. If each of the 56 states and jurisdictions had to shoulder the full market value of NASAA services in equal portion, those costs would total more than \$69,000 per state annually. But cost sharing, fundraising and leveraging efforts make NASAA services more affordable for all.



All state arts agency staff and council members can tap into NASAA member benefits. To access NASAA's research services, professional development opportunities or advocacy support, visit www.nasaa-arts.org or phone 202-347-6352.