

Peruse this two-page brief to amplify your voice as a state arts agency council or board member. Make it an agenda item at your next council meeting!

## Federal Arts Funds and the Debt Ceiling

In our [last edition of Report to Councils](#), we shared that President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget includes an increase for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to \$211 million. Since then, the House Appropriations Committee has been working to complete bills for all federal agencies. The deal reached to raise the debt limit puts additional strain on this process, as the agreement caps spending for *all* federal agencies in the FY2024 bill. So there's no time like the present to reach out to your members of Congress and their staff to educate them about how vital arts funding is to the well-being of our communities, and to urge them to support the NEA.

## Strengthen Your Advocacy Skills

Want to beef up your arts advocacy know-how before meeting with legislators or community leaders? Looking for ways to judiciously handle a potential arts controversy? Wondering whether state government agencies are even permitted to speak up about arts policy? NASAA has your answers! Check out these refreshed guides from our ongoing series, The Practical Advocate:

- [Being an Arts Ambassador](#)
- [Five Reasons to Support the Arts](#)
- [Meetings Matter!](#)
- [Communicating about Arts Controversies](#)
- [Advocacy vs. Lobbying: An Arts Primer](#)

Visit NASAA's website for additional [advocacy how-tos and info](#): making the case for public funding of the arts, the federal-state partnership, the government arts funding landscape—and more!

## Interested in NASAA Board Service?

NASAA's Nominating Committee reaches out every year to all state arts agency chairs and executive directors to ask for input on NASAA's annual action plan and recommendations for director positions on the NASAA board. If you're interested in board service—all current and former state arts agency chairs and council members are eligible—learn more about the [attributes and leadership skills](#) NASAA is looking for in 2024. Nominating Committee members will be reaching out in the coming weeks, so please let your chair or director know if you would like to be considered.

## Bringing Arts (and Well-Being) to Older Americans

State and jurisdictional arts agencies share a public mandate to make the social, educational, economic and health benefits of the arts available to all residents, especially underserved populations. Older Americans are an essential part of this commitment. As part of our **Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging** initiative in partnership with [E.A. Michelson Philanthropy](#), NASAA awarded \$1,440,400 in grant funding to state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the country to grow their creative aging programs, practices and partnerships in 2021 and 2022. The results of this work are documented in [Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging](#), including videos, resources and [Reflections](#).



Teaching artist Sangue Mboup (front) and Gloucester County (New Jersey) Library participants at a workshop on African drumming. Older adult participants brought members of their family to experience the workshop, resulting in a multi-generational experience. Photo by Erik James Montgomery

## NASAA Midyear Action Plan Highlights

Twice each year, NASAA reports on our progress in accomplishing our member-approved action plan. Our [Midyear Fiscal 2023 Action Plan Highlights](#) describe the many NASAA activities and services that benefit your council, your staff and the arts in your state. Peruse the highlights to learn what NASAA is accomplishing in service of our three top priorities for FY2023: Advocacy, Equity and Resiliency.



### Thriving Together

NASAA is *your* professional community—we are dedicated entirely to state arts agencies. As a member of NASAA, you play a vital role in shaping our goals and work. One way is through your personal support. Individual contributions from members like you strengthen our work and field, making it possible for us to achieve so much—as you can see in our Midyear Action Plan Highlights!

NASAA's spring campaign is happening now. [Will you please give today?](#) Your support makes a real difference to our professional community, allowing us to build on each other's success, navigate challenges with more resilience and thrive together. Thank you!



For questions or more information, contact Laura Smith: [laura.smith@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:laura.smith@nasaa-arts.org)

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