

# NASAA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Knowledge ▲ Representation ▲ Community

## 2023 Virtual Creative Aging Institute

November 13 – 15, 2023

### Agenda **DRAFT**

(updated October 25, 2023)

NASAA's annual [Creative Aging Institute](#) provides online professional development focused on trends and topics in creative aging. The Creative Aging Institute equips attendees with the inspiration and information they need to be successful creative aging leaders and champions. All state, jurisdictional and regional arts agency staff and council members are invited to participate, as are local, state and national arts organizations, partners in the aging services sector, and artists with an interest in how lifelong learning in the arts can benefit older Americans. Registration for this event is free, to make information on current trends and best practices in creative aging widely accessible to all.

When you [register for the Creative Aging Institute](#), you will receive a link to join all sessions via the email address you provide on the registration form.

## Monday, November 13

*All times are Eastern Standard Time.*

**2:00 – 2:15 p.m.**

### **Welcome Remarks**

Pam Breaux, President and CEO, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)

Teresa Bonner, Executive Director, E.A. Michelson Philanthropy

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen, Arts Learning Projects Director, NASAA

**2:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

### **Panel & Audience Q&A: Creative Aging as an Antidote to Loneliness**

Recent studies have shown that social isolation and loneliness are as bad for our health as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. Studies also show that, in the United States, some of the highest rates of social isolation are found among older adults. Could creative aging be a possible antidote to the pressing social ill of

loneliness? This panel explores the policy, practice and research ideas that position creative aging as a credible intervention to support older Americans' social and emotional well-being.

**Presenters:** Meredith Hanley, Director, Community Capacity Building, USAging  
Sudha Shreeniwas, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Jill Sonke, Ph.D., Director of Research Initiatives, Center for Arts in Medicine, University of Florida

**Moderator:** Sunil Iyengar, Research & Analysis Director, National Endowment for the Arts

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Intermission (offscreen)

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

**Artist Talk: Jess T. Dugan & Vanessa Fabbre on "To Survive on this Shore"**

Older adults in the United States are especially at risk for loneliness and social isolation if they are also experiencing marginalization due to poverty, geography, language barriers, immigration status, race, gender and other social circumstances. This session explores the multidimensional experience of aging through a creative lens. "To Survive on this Shore" is a portraiture and interview project by photographer Jess T. Dugan and social worker Vanessa Fabbre that highlights the diverse lived experiences of transgender older adults. Hear how this richly detailed collaboration between an artist and a social scientist provides a qualitative frame that can deepen our understanding of some of the research findings explored in the previous session.

**Speakers:** Jess T. Dugan, Artist  
Vanessa Fabbre, Associate Professor of Social Work, Brown School, Washington University

**Moderator:** Susan Oetgen

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.

**Optional Facilitated Breakout Group Conversations:  
*Creative Aging and Online Spaces of Social Connection***

How can online creative aging spaces support our need for social connection as we age? Join brief, facilitated, small-group breakout discussions to "walk the talk" of social connection in our online Creative Aging Institute!

**Facilitators:** TBA

5:15 – 5:20 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen

**Tuesday, November 14**

*All times are Eastern Standard Time.*

2:00 – 2:05 p.m.

**Welcome Remarks & Introductions**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen, Arts Learning Projects Director, NASAA

2:05 – 2:15 p.m.

**Context Setting: Creative Aging and Intergenerational Arts Learning**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Video Introductions: Intergenerational Arts Learning Programs**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Panel: The How and Why of Intergenerational Arts Learning Programs**

Designing high-quality arts learning programs that intentionally bring together older adults with younger generations builds on and extends best practices of creative aging. What are the practical considerations of designing intergenerational arts learning opportunities? How can arts providers and arts funders ensure that the unique needs of different participants are being met? What do successful intergenerational arts learning programs look like across diverse cultural backgrounds? This panel unpacks the design practicalities and ideals of this specialized focus of creative aging programming.

**Presenters:** Jennifer Kulik, Ph.D., Executive Director, SilverKite Community Arts, LLC  
Elizabeth “Like” Lokon, Ph.D., Founder & Director, Opening Minds through Art (OMA), Scripps Gerontology Center  
Alexander Santiago-Jirau, Director of Education and Community Engagement, New York Theatre Workshop

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Intermission (off-screen)

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**                    **Audience Q&A: The How and Why of Intergenerational Arts Learning Programs**

**Moderator:** Susan Oetgen

**4:00 – 4:50 p.m.**                    **Concurrent Sessions: Topics in Intergenerational Arts Learning**

Panelists from our previous session dive more deeply into panel topics in concurrent conversations.

**Presenters:** Jennifer Kulik, Ph.D., Executive Director, SilverKite Community Arts, LLC  
Elizabeth “Like” Lokon, Ph.D., Founder & Director, Opening Minds through Art (OMA), Scripps Gerontology Center  
Alexander Santiago-Jirau, Director of Education, New York Theatre Workshop

**4:50 – 5:00 p.m.**                    **Closing Remarks**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen

## **Wednesday, November 15**

*All times are Eastern Standard Time.*

**2:00 – 2:05 p.m.**                    **Welcome Remarks**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen, Arts Learning Projects Director, NASAA

**2:05 – 3:30 p.m.**                    **Panel: Scaling Creative Aging through State-Level Partnerships**

State level, cross-sector partnerships are helping to leverage new funding and support to advance creative aging across the country and build an infrastructure for sustainability. As a result, more older adults are benefitting from programming that is responsive, builds artistic skills and social connection, and improves health. In this session, learn how a multisector approach is supporting state goals to engage older adults in rural and underserved communities in particular. Lifetime Arts’s Advancing Creative Aging in the Western States Initiative is building the capacity of a cross-sector group of state agencies—including arts, veterans services, libraries, and health and human services—in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Nevada. The Initiative includes vision planning, support for partnership development and convening, and seed grants to catalyze programs and demonstrate impact in new host organizations. Gain insights from participating state arts

agencies into how this initiative is expanding creative aging programming and strengthening a culture shift that places arts at the core of western states' older adult services.

**Presenters:** Josh Chrysler, Folklorist and Health & Wellness Specialist, Wyoming Arts Council  
Monica Grable, Arts Education Director, Montana Arts Council  
Tony Manfredi, Executive Director, Nevada Arts Council  
Laura Roghaar, Arts Learning Services Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts

**Moderator:** Nathan Majoros, Director of Programs, Lifetime Arts

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Intermission (offscreen)

3:45 – 4:55 p.m.

**Progressive Conversation: Designing for Equitable Access to Creative Aging at the State Level**

As public funders of the arts, state arts agencies have long played a role in facilitating equitable access to the arts, especially for communities with sparse infrastructure or historically limited access to resources. Hear from five state arts agencies on their approaches to designing and implementing creative aging programs that take into account older adults' multidimensional experiences of aging and solve for potential barriers to access in their unique state contexts.

**Presenters:** Anne Alston, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council  
Rebecca Cruse, Deputy Director, South Dakota Arts Council  
Stephanie Haines, Arts Education and Accessibility Program Manager, Indiana Arts Commission  
Kim Johnson, Director of Arts Access, Tennessee Arts Commission  
Christine Leahy, Program Director, Arts Education and Literature, New York State Council on the Arts

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen

4:55 – 5:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

**Emcee:** Susan Oetgen