

This two-page brief is chock-full of info designed to enhance your work as a state arts agency council or board member. Make it an agenda item at your next council meeting!

Federal Arts Budget Update

After weeks of brinkmanship, lawmakers in Congress were unable to bridge their differences in time to keep federal agencies open, and the government shut down on October 1. Once they find a way through this deadlock, it is widely expected that Congress will pass a continuing resolution. Such a measure would reopen agencies and extend funding for only a short duration, likely a few weeks. The point of that temporary patch would be to give negotiators more time to hammer out a full-year funding bill for fiscal year 2026.

Until that happens, uncertainty will remain, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)—like every other agency—will be left to plan in increments, rather than with the stability that a year-long appropriation provides. It's difficult to predict the trajectory of negotiations by the House, Senate and White House to strike a budget deal that would reopen the federal government. NASAA will keep advocates apprised of new developments once we know how the appropriation for the NEA is faring in the process. Keep on top of [federal arts policy updates](#) with NASAA.

NASAA Policy Agenda Urges Federal Actions

At the start of each new presidential administration, NASAA distributes a policy platform that encourages federal actions in support of public investment in the arts. Earlier this year, we circulated [Strengthening America through Arts and Innovation: A Federal Policy Agenda](#). This document urges Congress and the administration to:

- sustain support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- continue to designate 40% of the NEA grants budget for states and regions
- ensure that federal policies designed to support entrepreneurship and growth include the creative industries
- harness creativity and innovation across the federal government by integrating the arts with other federal agencies

For further details, read the full [policy platform](#).



Preview of FY2026 State Arts Funding

Check out NASAA's snapshot of the funding each state and jurisdictional arts agency expects to receive for fiscal year 2026. Our [FY2026 State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview](#) shows projected FY2026 funding as well as state per capita rankings. Projected appropriations to state arts agencies of \$650.2 million for the year ahead represent an aggregate investment of \$1.89 per capita. The preview report also includes individual state per capita figures. NASAA is currently fielding our FY2026 State Arts Agency Revenues Survey, and will report a complete picture of final FY2026 legislative appropriations and revenues this winter. You can learn more on the [Funding](#) page of NASAA's website.

Creative Aging, Creative Futures Grants

NASAA has launched a new grant initiative to continue our emphasis on advancing creative aging programs and opportunities through state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs): [Creative Aging, Creative Futures](#). In our third joint initiative with E.A. Michelson Philanthropy, up to \$2,290,000 in grant funding is offered to SAAs to strengthen meaningful arts learning experiences for older adults in the United States. The long-term partnership between NASAA, E.A. Michelson Philanthropy and state arts agencies has significantly dispersed creative aging programming nationwide. These sustained investments underscore the essential role of the arts in lifelong learning and healthy aging. For more information, contact NASAA Arts Learning Projects Director [Susan Oetgen](#).

NASAA Welcomes New Board Chair and Directors

NASAA members elected a new board chair and directors at our annual business meeting this month. David Platts, SC, was elected chair, and Sean Chandler, Aaniiih, MT, was elected to continue his service for a second term. Newly elected members of the board are Jessica Ball, DE; Colt Chambers, GA; Karem Gallo, KS; David Lewis, MS; Christina You-sun Park, AZ; and Gary Whitley Jr., AL.

In addition, the board elected these officers: 1st Vice Chair, LaVon Bracy Davis, FL; 2nd Vice Chair, Karen Ewald, HI; Treasurer, Michael Donovan, MO; Secretary, David Schmitz, IA.

NASAA is grateful to outgoing board members—and we are eager to work with our [new board of directors](#).



Moving the Arts Forward Together

All of NASAA's advocacy on behalf of state arts agencies is made possible by individual contributions. The generosity of members like you sustains our work to protect and strengthen public funding for the arts. In November, NASAA will launch our year-end campaign—our largest fundraising effort of the year—and your personal gift will be especially meaningful during this critical time for advocacy. Please watch for campaign communications, or [make your gift](#) early to help us start strong. Join us—together, we can keep moving the arts forward. Thank you!



For questions or more information, contact Katie Hughes, katie.hughes@nasaa-arts.org

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