



Why Attend NASAA Assembly 2026?

As state and federal policy environments become increasingly complex, state leaders in the arts need smart solutions from across the nation to advance agency goals.

NASAA Assembly 2026 is a national leadership convening designed to help state arts agency staff and council members strengthen their effectiveness, respond to emerging challenges and bring back practical ideas that can be applied at home. This year's program is especially well suited for approval requests because it combines **timely policy insight, peer-tested strategies and direct relevance to current state arts agency priorities.**

Timely, Practical Content for State Arts Agency Work

NASAA Assembly 2026 focuses on issues that are highly relevant to agency leadership, program staff and commissioners, including:

- cross-sector partnerships with workforce, economic development and health agencies
- innovative state arts agency policies and revenue strategies
- creative aging implementation and programming
- state policies advancing artist economies
- member-driven sessions shaped by the field, highlighting the work of your peers

These sessions are designed to offer practical ideas, examples and frameworks that attendees can bring back to inform agency planning, partnerships and decision making.

Direct Value for Agency Leadership and Public Service

NASAA Assembly 2026 provides a rare opportunity to hear from national leaders, federal partners and peers from across the country in one setting. The program includes an opening plenary with the National Endowment for the Arts and a Friday morning plenary focused on building durable public support for the arts. For attendees, this means access to current national context, actionable guidance and broad perspective on the issues affecting state arts agencies.

Strong Peer Learning and Real-World Exchange

A major benefit of NASAA Assembly 2026 is the opportunity to learn directly from other states. Dedicated job-alike peer groups, facilitated discussions and topical sessions allow attendees to exchange strategies, compare approaches and gather solutions from colleagues facing similar opportunities and constraints. This kind of peer learning can save time, reduce duplication of effort and support stronger decision making at home. Most peer sessions take place offsite in community based arts settings, reinforcing the connection between policy and practice by showcasing real-world examples.

Useful for Multiple Roles within an Agency

NASAA Assembly 2026 includes content relevant to executive directors, deputies, program staff, accessibility leaders, arts education staff, communications managers, community development staff, folk and traditional arts staff, grants officers, and others. Because the program combines plenary learning, peer groups and focused concurrent sessions, agencies can see value in sending one or more participants depending on their priorities and responsibilities.

Immediate and Long-Term Return on Investment

Attending NASAA Assembly 2026 can support both immediate agency needs and longer-term planning. Participants will gain:

- current information on national policy trends and the federal funding landscape
- ideas for strengthening grant-making design
- examples of emerging programs and innovations from other states
- connections that can support future problem-solving and collaboration

In short, NASAA Assembly 2026 offers more than inspiration. It provides **practical, field-informed knowledge and relationships** that can strengthen an agency's work well beyond the conference itself.

A National Forum for the Field

NASAA Assembly 2026 brings together state arts agency leaders from across the country for shared learning, reflection and strategy. Participation ensures that attendees are connected to national conversations, aware of emerging directions in the field, and better positioned to represent and advance their state's interests.

If you have any questions, please contact NASAA Community Learning Director Eric Giles, eric.giles@nasaa-arts.org.