State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview, Fiscal Year 2027

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This report provides a forecast for state government funding for the arts in fiscal year 2027. Data presented were collected before most states began a new fiscal year on July 1, 2026.

As of July 21, 2026, 48 states and jurisdictions have enacted budgets for FY2027, but shifts in projected state revenues or changes in spending needs may prompt adjustments to those initial appropriations. In some biennial-budget states, appropriations enacted back in 2025 may be revised based on updated information. Even states with single-year fiscal cycles are expected to revisit their enacted budgets in the coming months. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) will collect FY2027 and updated FY2026 revenue data toward the end of the calendar year. For the latest information on fluctuations in state and jurisdictional arts agency (SAA) funding, contact NASAA Research Manager Nakyung Rhee.

Preliminary Findings

- **Total appropriations to state and jurisdictional arts agencies are projected to increase by 2.5% in FY2027.**
- **Excluding line items, baseline appropriations are projected to increase 1.3%.**
- **Twenty-three SAAs reported projected increases in total appropriations,** with a median increase of 12.3%.
- **Nineteen SAAs reported projected decreases,** with a median decrease of 7.7%.
- **Total per capita appropriations to SAAs are projected to be $1.96 in FY2027,** an increase of $0.05 from FY2026.

The Climate for Arts Funding

The FY2027 fiscal outlook points to a constrained budget environment as states contend with slow revenue growth, shrinking surplus funds, uncertain federal funding and rising spending pressures, especially in health care and education. Inflation rates exceeding 4% are another factor affecting state budgets, making the delivery of state services more expensive. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, proposed FY2027 budgets reflect cautious budget management, as states try to maintain structural balance by aligning recurring expenditures with recurring revenues amid increasing spending pressure and modest revenue growth. General fund spending growth is projected to be essentially flat, with a median increase of just 0.6% over FY2026 levels. Twenty-three states are forecasting spending to decline or remain flat and states projected more than $26 billion in budget gaps while enacting FY2027 budgets. States are increasingly relying on targeted spending cuts, eliminating vacant positions and drawing on prior-year fund balances to sustain budget balance.

States enter FY2027 with rainy-day funds still historically healthy, though balances have been gradually declining since their FY2024 peak. The median balance is projected to fall to 12.6% of general fund expenditures.

State arts agencies are projected to receive $676.2 million in appropriations for FY2027, a 2.5% increase over FY2026. Some of that growth comes from line-item appropriations; when excluding line items, base appropriations are projected to grow 1.3%. Within these national totals, individual states show considerably more variation, with some agencies seeing double-digit increases in their base appropriations and others facing substantial reductions. This divergence highlights the differing fiscal circumstances among states, indicating that the national total comprises diverse state-level outcomes rather than a uniform trend.

These figures are preliminary estimates, as several states have yet to finalize their FY2027 budgets. NASAA will release a detailed report this winter, providing comprehensive data on the enacted budgets of all state and jurisdictional arts agencies.

State Arts Agency Appropriations Projections

Current estimates project that total legislative appropriations to state and jurisdictional arts agencies will increase by 2.5% in FY2027, growing from $659.5 million in FY2026 to $676.2 million. This represents a difference of $16.7 million over the prior year. At this level, total state arts appropriations would remain well above prepandemic funding, standing 61% higher than the FY2021 total of $421.2 million.

Total FY2027 appropriations reflect growth in both major components. Baseline appropriations allocated directly to state arts agencies are projected to grow by 1.3% (from $552.1 million to $559.3 million), while line item appropriations passed through SAA budgets to other legislatively designated entities are projected to increase by approximately 9%. At the state level, fluctuations in these line items accounted for many of the largest changes in total funding.

In FY2027:

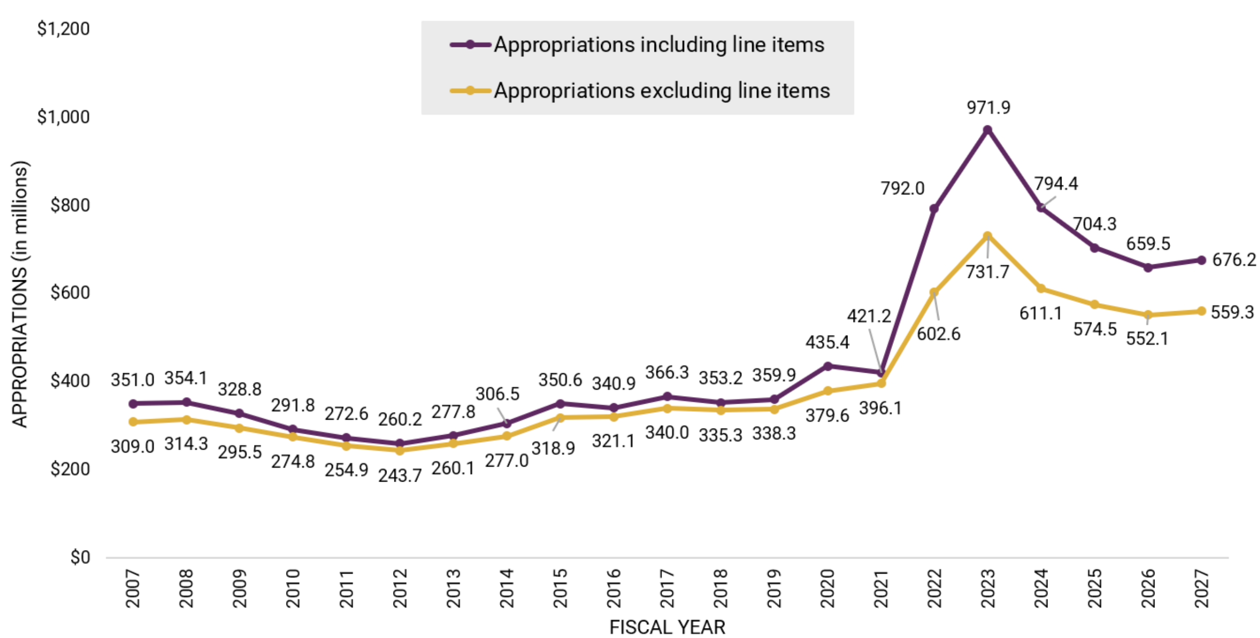
- 23 states or jurisdictions expect their arts appropriation to increase,
- 19 expect their appropriation to decrease, and
- 14 expect their appropriation to remain unchanged. ("Unchanged" appropriations include changes of less than 0.5%.)

For more state-by-state details, see the tables and notes on pages 6, 7 and 8 of this report.

Historic Trends

The near-level baseline funding for state arts appropriations from FY2026 to FY2027 reflects a normalization following the unusually large fluctuations in funding during the pandemic-recovery years. Appropriations growth appears to be returning to a more modest pace, as is typical over time. Line item appropriations, which have historically displayed substantial year-over-year volatility, account for most of the increase in total appropriations in FY2027.

Figure 1: State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2007-2027



Per Capita Funding

Projected appropriations to state arts agencies of $676.2 million for the coming fiscal year translate to a national per capita investment of $1.96. As with total appropriations, there is considerable variation at the state level, ranging from a few cents to nearly $10 per resident. Per capita funding remains 22% above the previous prepandemic high of $1.60 per person for FY2001. Individual state per capita figures are available on page 8.

About These Data

Based on data provided NASAA in May and June 2026, this preview contains information on the legislative appropriation that each state arts agency expects to receive for FY2027. This report does not include information on other sources of funding (federal money, state transfer funds or other revenue sources) that SAAs may receive. NASAA will collect comprehensive FY2027 SAA budget statistics in the fall and will report those findings in the winter. Background information on total SAA revenues for FY2026 is available in the Funding section of the NASAA website, which includes a suite of data visualizations that detail appropriations and revenue over time, regional comparisons, and per capita rankings.

All references to historic trend data in this forecast are presented in nominal terms—i.e., they are not adjusted for inflation. Detailed discussion of inflation's effects (and accompanying constant-dollar adjustments) is included in NASAA's in-depth State Arts Agency Revenues report, published each winter. Trend charts, including inflation adjustments, are available through our appropriations and revenue explorers.

Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Appropriations Including Line Items

Fiscal Years 2026–2027, Preliminary Projections

	State or Special Jurisdiction	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Projected	Percent Change
	Alabama*	$8,467,537	$10,593,983	25.1%
	Alaska	$902,600	$916,600	1.6%
1	American Samoa▌†	$293,500	$394,700	34.5%
	Arizona	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	0.0%
2	Arkansas	$1,314,130	$1,154,144	-12.2%
	California▌	$31,804,000	$36,137,000	13.6%
	Colorado	$3,484,081	$3,365,976	-3.4%
3	Connecticut*	$9,176,774	$15,211,190	65.8%
4	Delaware*	$6,434,700	$7,452,200	15.8%
5	District of Columbia	$44,754,343	$45,379,000	1.4%
	Florida*	$39,980,263	$60,295,132	50.8%
	Georgia	$1,837,400	$1,587,150	-13.6%
	Guam*†	$421,950	$402,115	-4.7%
6	Hawai'i*	$19,485,755	$13,850,605	-28.9%
	Idaho	$931,600	$926,100	-0.6%
	Illinois*	$24,440,800	$24,511,800	0.3%
	Indiana	$3,278,256	$3,278,256	0.0%
	Iowa*	$2,220,203	$2,050,203	-7.7%
	Kansas	$1,000,000	$750,000	-25.0%
	Kentucky*	$4,979,083	$3,628,400	-27.1%
7	Louisiana	$2,080,617	$2,480,617	19.2%
8	Maine	$1,137,355	$1,232,124	8.3%
	Maryland*	$31,869,051	$35,026,749	9.9%
	Massachusetts	$26,975,152	$26,975,152	0.0%
	Michigan*▌†	$11,135,200	$12,500,000	12.3%
	Minnesota	$45,484,000	$54,680,000	20.2%
9	Mississippi	$6,906,176	$6,615,312	-4.2%
	Missouri*	$17,057,686	$10,690,514	-37.3%
	Montana	$1,385,603	$1,400,161	1.1%
	Nebraska*	$5,336,718	$5,399,172	1.2%
	Nevada	$6,786,836	$2,594,688	-61.8%
	New Hampshire	$150,000	$165,000	10.0%
	New Jersey	$35,455,000	$32,355,000	-8.7%
	New Mexico*	$1,709,900	$2,743,275	60.4%
10	New York*	$82,191,485	$82,381,000	0.2%
	North Carolina*†	$11,725,890	$11,725,890	0.0%
11	North Dakota	$1,331,267	$1,331,267	0.0%
	Northern Marianas	$208,937	$208,937	0.0%
	Ohio	$26,710,595	$26,781,201	0.3%
12	Oklahoma*	$4,020,501	$4,020,501	0.0%
13	Oregon*†	$14,331,047	$2,431,047	-83.0%
	Pennsylvania†	$10,776,000	$10,698,000	-0.7%
	Puerto Rico*†	$35,619,000	$33,247,000	-6.7%
14	Rhode Island*	$2,416,128	$2,610,565	8.0%
	South Carolina	$10,603,268	$10,603,268	0.0%
15	South Dakota	$1,431,204	$1,461,412	2.1%
16	Tennessee*	$13,583,000	$15,736,300	15.9%
	Texas	$18,288,573	$18,288,573	0.0%
	Utah*	$10,063,500	$9,448,300	-6.1%
	Vermont	$1,096,800	$1,071,800	-2.3%
	Virgin Islands†	$366,000	$366,000	0.0%
	Virginia*	$4,590,172	$4,695,761	2.3%
17	Washington	$6,530,000	$6,394,000	-2.1%
18	West Virginia*	$649,000	$1,677,838	158.5%
	Wisconsin	$1,184,238	$1,184,238	0.0%
	Wyoming	$1,077,774	$1,091,045	1.2%
	Total	**$659,470,648**	**$676,196,261**	**2.5%**

Notes, Tables 1 and 2

Prior-year totals may differ from previously published reports. NASAA collects and updates current and prior-year appropriations data twice annually.

* The total projected appropriation includes line item funds designated by the legislature to pass through the state arts agency to other entities.
▌ Agency has indicated its budget is extremely likely to change.
† At the time of publication, the state does not have an enacted FY2027 budget.

1 American Samoa: The FY2027 figure reflects a budget proposal; the final appropriation may differ.

2 Arkansas: The Arkansas Arts Council projected budget reflects a reduction in agency staffing during the reporting period.

3 Connecticut: The Connecticut Office of the Arts FY2027 appropriation includes a one-time $1 million line item for Connecticut Public Radio, along with an increase in humanities funding and new legislatively directed grants supporting cultural festivals and parades.

4 Delaware: The Delaware Division of the Arts FY2027 line item appropriation includes a one-time $1 million allocation for public art funding.

5 District of Columbia: The FY2027 appropriation reflects the approved Local Budget Act, including $1 million in capital grants to two theatre organizations.

6 Hawai'i: The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts general fund appropriation includes restricted fund amounts in both FY2026 and FY2027, designated for the acquisition and conservation of works of art and related programs.

7 Louisiana: The Louisiana Division of the Arts FY2027 appropriation includes one-time funding for arts and festival support.

8 Maine: The Maine Arts Commission appropriation includes funding for a legislative study on technology's impact on artists, included as an administrative cost rather than a line item.

9 Mississippi: The FY2026 and FY2027 appropriations each include $3.5 million in legislatively directed funding for capital improvements for arts facilities statewide.

10 New York: The FY2027 line items include $500,000 in pass-through funding directed to a state-affiliated performing arts organization.

11 North Dakota: The North Dakota Council on the Arts biennial appropriation includes income from a maintenance fund directed toward fabrication costs for a public arts program, in addition to annual cultural endowment fund distributions for artist grants.

(continued on Table 2)

Table 2: State Arts Agency Total Appropriations Excluding Line Items

Fiscal Years 2026–2027, Preliminary Projections

	State or Special Jurisdiction	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Projected	Percent Change
	Alabama	$7,057,537	$7,108,983	0.7%
	Alaska	$902,600	$916,600	1.6%
1	American Samoa▮†	$293,500	$394,700	34.5%
	Arizona	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	0.0%
2	Arkansas	$1,314,130	$1,154,144	-12.2%
	California▮	$31,804,000	$36,137,000	13.6%
	Colorado	$3,484,081	$3,365,976	-3.4%
3	Connecticut	$1,497,298	$1,497,298	0.0%
4	Delaware†	$6,434,700	$6,452,200	0.3%
5	District of Columbia	$43,754,343	$45,379,000	3.7%
	Florida	$21,210,797	$20,000,000	-5.7%
	Georgia	$1,837,400	$1,587,150	-13.6%
	Guam†	$376,950	$402,115	6.7%
6	Hawai'i	$9,985,755	$4,350,605	-56.4%
	Idaho	$931,600	$926,100	-0.6%
	Illinois	$21,338,000	$21,409,000	0.3%
	Indiana	$3,278,256	$3,278,256	0.0%
	Iowa	$1,450,000	$1,280,000	-11.7%
	Kansas	$1,000,000	$750,000	-25.0%
	Kentucky†	$1,804,500	$1,776,000	-1.6%
7	Louisiana	$2,080,617	$2,480,617	19.2%
8	Maine	$1,137,355	$1,232,124	8.3%
	Maryland	$30,709,051	$32,361,749	5.4%
	Massachusetts	$26,975,152	$26,975,152	0.0%
	Michigan▮†	$2,450,000	$2,500,000	2.0%
	Minnesota	$45,484,000	$54,680,000	20.2%
9	Mississippi	$6,606,176	$6,615,312	0.1%
	Missouri	$10,118,952	$7,214,680	-28.7%
	Montana	$1,385,603	$1,400,161	1.1%
	Nebraska	$2,668,359	$2,699,586	1.2%
	Nevada	$2,824,179	$2,594,688	-8.1%
	New Hampshire	$150,000	$165,000	10.0%
	New Jersey†	$32,355,000	$32,355,000	0.0%
	New Mexico†	$1,694,900	$1,805,400	6.5%
10	New York	$81,191,485	$81,135,000	-0.1%
	North Carolina†	$11,606,933	$11,606,933	0.0%
11	North Dakota	$1,331,267	$1,331,267	0.0%
	Northern Marianas	$208,937	$208,937	0.0%
	Ohio	$26,710,595	$26,781,201	0.3%
12	Oklahoma	$3,902,325	$3,902,325	0.0%
13	Oregon†	$2,431,047	$2,431,047	0.0%
	Pennsylvania†	$10,776,000	$10,698,000	-0.7%
	Puerto Rico†	$16,021,000	$14,835,000	-7.4%
14	Rhode Island	$2,016,128	$2,210,565	9.6%
	South Carolina	$10,603,268	$10,603,268	0.0%
15	South Dakota	$1,431,204	$1,461,412	2.1%
16	Tennessee	$13,358,000	$15,486,300	15.9%
	Texas	$18,288,573	$18,288,573	0.0%
	Utah	$8,968,500	$7,318,300	-18.4%
	Vermont	$1,096,800	$1,071,800	-2.3%
	Virgin Islands†	$366,000	$366,000	0.0%
	Virginia	$4,590,172	$4,590,172	0.0%
17	Washington	$6,530,000	$6,394,000	-2.1%
18	West Virginia	$-	$1,028,838	N/A
	Wisconsin	$1,184,238	$1,184,238	0.0%
	Wyoming	$1,077,774	$1,091,045	1.2%
	Total	**$552,085,037**	**$559,268,817**	**1.3%**

Notes, Tables 1 and 2 (continued)

Prior-year totals may differ from previously published reports. NASAA collects and updates current and prior-year appropriations data twice annually.

▮ Agency has indicated its budget is extremely likely to change.
† At the time of publication, the state does not have an enacted FY2027 budget.

(continued from Table 1)

12 Oklahoma: The FY2027 appropriation includes new recurring funding for facility and personnel-related costs, alongside a temporary reduction in retirement-related contributions in effect for multiple years.

13 Oregon: The Oregon Arts Commission FY2026 line items include $11.9 million for 14 infrastructure and capital projects enacted for the 2025–2027 biennium. This is recorded in FY2026 only, which affects comparability of the FY2026-to-FY2027 percent change.

14 Rhode Island: The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts FY2027 budget includes a one-time $50,000 increase in the grants budget for an Arts and Health Incubator program.

15 South Dakota: The South Dakota Arts Council budget is derived from tourism taxes, making it subject to revenue fluctuations and legislative decisions.

16 Tennessee: The FY2027 appropriation includes a $25,000 nonrecurring line item, along with an estimated amount of dedicated revenue and additional use of reserve funds.

17 Washington: The Washington State Arts Commission FY2027 appropriation includes supplemental projected funding for completion of a public art project, along with Creative District Capital funds.

18 West Virginia: For FY2026, the majority of the West Virginia State Arts Office appropriation was comprised of legislatively directed funds (see Table 2). The same was not the case in FY2027, which affects comparability of the FY2026-to-FY2027 percent change.

Table 3: Per Capita State Arts Agency Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2027, Preliminary Projections

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line items	
	Per Capita	
	Amount	Rank
Alabama*	$2.04	16
Alaska	$1.24	25
Arizona	$0.26	46
Arkansas	$0.37	45
California▌	$0.92	31
Colorado	$0.56	40
Connecticut*	$4.12	5
Delaware*	$7.03	3
Florida*	$2.57	11
Georgia	$0.14	49
Hawai'i*	$9.67	1
Idaho	$0.46	44
Illinois*	$1.93	17
Indiana	$0.47	43
Iowa*	$0.63	37
Kansas	$0.25	47
Kentucky*	$0.79	36
Louisiana	$0.54	41
Maine	$0.87	32
Maryland*	$5.59	4
Massachusetts	$3.77	7
Michigan*▌†	$1.23	26
Minnesota	$9.38	2
Mississippi	$2.24	14
Missouri*	$1.70	20
Montana	$1.22	27
Nebraska*	$2.68	9
Nevada	$0.79	35
New Hampshire	$0.12	50
New Jersey	$3.39	8
New Mexico*	$1.29	24
New York*	$4.12	6
North Carolina*†	$1.05	28
North Dakota	$1.67	21
Ohio	$2.25	13
Oklahoma*	$0.98	29
Oregon*†	$0.57	39
Pennsylvania†	$0.82	33
Rhode Island*	$2.34	12
South Carolina	$1.90	18
South Dakota	$1.56	23
Tennessee*	$2.15	15
Texas	$0.58	38
Utah*	$2.67	10
Vermont	$1.66	22
Virginia*	$0.53	42
Washington	$0.80	34
West Virginia*	$0.95	30
Wisconsin	$0.20	48
Wyoming	$1.85	19
American Samoa▌†	$9.12	5
District of Columbia	$65.42	1
Guam*†	$2.37	17
Northern Marianas	$4.10	10
Puerto Rico*†	$10.44	2
Virgin Islands†	$3.53	12
Total	**$1.96**	

Table Notes

* The total projected appropriation includes line item funds designated by the legislature to pass through the state arts agency to other entities.

▌ Agency has indicated its budget is extremely likely to change.
† At the time of publication, the state does not have an enacted FY2027 budget.

Per capita amounts represent the total dollar figure for each agency's appropriation divided by the total population. The total per capita figure in the bottom row is based on the aggregate population for 56 states and jurisdictions. States are ranked out of 50; jurisdictions are ranked out of 56.

Per capita spending calculations for the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are based on the July 1, 2025, population estimates in the Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2025 table from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population figures for American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are from the International Database of the U.S. Census Bureau.