



## **NFTA 2021 Highlights**



We saw many successes in the most recent legislative session:

- The Nebraska Arts Council was able to distribute **over \$1.2 M in federal relief funds** to Nebraska arts organizations and artists.
- **NAC's annual budget increased by 40%**. This has enabled Nebraska to start a Creative Districts program, with grants of up to \$250,000 for designated districts (see more below).
- The Unicameral allocated an additional **\$5 M to the Nebraska Cultural Endowment** over an eight-year period.
- We saw progress in achieving **certification for Art Therapists** in Nebraska, which is one of the causes we will continue to work for in the coming legislative session.



The Creative District program, which was approved in the most recent legislative session, is now up and running! Find out more about **becoming a Creative District here**. If you want to show your support for the arts for everyone to see, make sure to order your **Support the Arts license plate here**.



The 2020-21 NebraskART Award winners were **Blackburn Alternative High School** and **Wausa Public Schools**. Celebrations were held May 13th (Wausa) and November 18th (Blackburn) of this year.

NFTA is excited to have just announced its 2021-22 NebraskARTS winners: **Central City Public Schools** and **Sheridan Elementary School**.





2021 Arts Advocacy Day was held virtually on February 17th! It showed great success in **pairing Nebraska constituents with Senators from their district** for meaningful Zoom conversations about the arts throughout February and March.

*(Save the Date for 2022 Arts Advocacy Day: Wednesday, February 16 in Ashland!)*



In summer 2021, NFTA launched its inaugural **Poetry Activated Competition**. Nebraska High School students were invited to submit an original advocacy poem - a poem that brings to light an issue in their community, advocates for something about which they are passionate, or encourages progress in a specific area of society. **The five winning poems were compiled into a mini booklet that can be found [here](#).** Enjoy!



In April 2021, we founded the **Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network (NAAN)** to be able to **have closer communication with our constituents across the state**. The key purpose of NAAN is for NFTA to be able to hear from members what is happening in their community, and see what support we can offer or how we can bring people together from different communities to address the same issue, shine a light on the wonderful things that are happening across the state, and be proactive about creative sector funding opportunities. **NAAN is still in its beginning stages, and we are welcoming new members at any time [here](#).**

Join NFTA today! Memberships start at \$25 for the year!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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