



## **March 2022 Newsletter**

Here is what we have included for you in this newsletter:

- Arts Advocacy Day Recap
- Bills NFTA is supporting in the current legislative session
- Federal action item
- Poetry Out Loud State Finals - March 11
- NAC grant information - deadline March 15
- Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate applications - deadline March 25
- Lux Center for the Arts residency - deadline April 15
- Union for Contemporary Art grants - deadline April 24
- What If - original music submissions
- LAC temporary position

### **Nebraska Arts Advocacy Day Recap**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2022 Nebraska Arts Advocacy Day on February 16th! Our keynote speaker, David Holland from Westaf, did a wonderful job giving a federal update, and our esteemed NAC ED Suzanne Wise gave a very informative presentation on how to navigate



the Nebraska Legislature's website, and lots of great advocacy tips!

We also had a wonderful time connecting with each other across the state in Session 2, and planning the upcoming meetings with Senators to advocate for the arts and arts-related bills (see more below).

Since Arts Advocacy Day, Nebraska arts advocates have participated in 13 meetings with 14 State Senators! We have a few more

meetings taking place next week. If you missed Arts Advocacy Day, and would like to connect with your Senator to advocate for the arts, just contact **Petra** and we at NFTA can help you out!

To watch session 1 of our Arts Advocacy Day, go **HERE**.

## **Bills NFTA is supporting this session**

Nebraskans for the Arts is particularly focusing on two bills and one amendment in the current legislative session that support the arts and Creative Sector. These are the bills we have been advocating for in the Senator meetings that followed Arts Advocacy Day. Below are the links to each bill, or amendment, and a short description:

### **SUPPORTING:**

#### **LB 1014 - Shovel-Ready**

- LB566 proposed to create a grant program, administered by the Department of Economic Development, for cultural organizations that were forced to halt a capital campaign or expansion project due the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill passed in May 2021, but grant seekers have not yet been notified about their applications, as the DED was waiting to find out how much federal ARPA funds would be allocated to the program.
- LB566 has been included in LB1014, with a current recommendation of \$115 Million towards the grant program included in the Governor's budget. LB1014 was included in a recent ARPA hearing on January 25, 2022 in front of the Appropriations Committee.

#### **LB 325 - Art Therapy Practice Act**

- LB325 amends relevant sections of the Uniform Credentialing Act and Mental Health Practice Act to create a certification in Art Therapy in Nebraska. This certification would be administered by the Mental Health Practice Board. Currently, anyone in Nebraska can call themselves an Art Therapist. LB325 would ensure that only people with the relevant education and training would be able to call themselves Art Therapists.
- LB325 was introduced in January 2021 by Senator Albrecht. It was voted out of the Health and Human Services Committee in March 2021, and placed on general file.

#### **AM2023 - additional finds for Nebraska Creative Districts**

- LB927 was introduced by Senator Pahls, and includes an amendment by Senator Flood, which would bring additional funding for the Nebraska Creative Districts.
- Senator Flood has written the amendment to provide sole access of the funds to Creative Districts in the 2023-24 fiscal year. After that, certified Creative Districts will still have access to funds, but it will be on a competitive basis with other types of

applicants. Senator Flood has mirrored the Nebraska Arts Council's regulations that certified Creative Districts can apply for \$100,000-\$250,000.

- The amendment restricts the funds to certified Creative Districts in Class One municipalities (5,000 – 100,000 population). While this leaves out smaller communities, and cities that have convention centers funded by previous legislation (Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney), by providing additional sources of grant revenue, this allows the Nebraska Arts Council to use the other sources of revenue at its disposal to provide similar sized grants to those communities and neighborhood Creative Districts not covered by this legislation

We will keep you updated on these important bills and amendment!



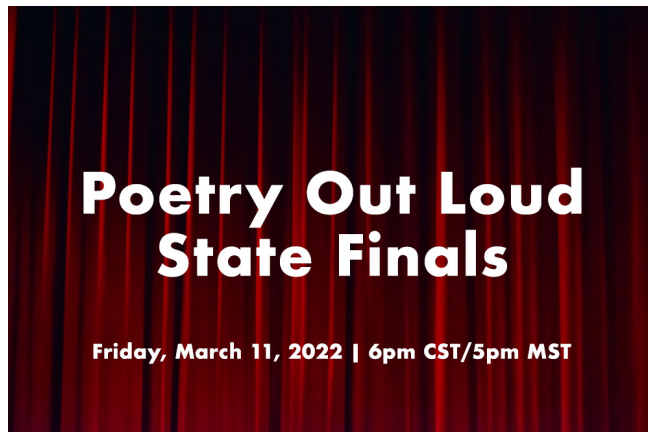
### **Federal Action Item - Opportunity to sign!**

Our friends at the National Council of Nonprofits (NCN) guided a letter with 60 national organizations to Congress and the Administration highlighting the priorities of the

nonprofit sector.

NCN has now opened that letter for *all* charitable nonprofits to sign on. As Congress enters into a final stretch of FY 2022 appropriations negotiations which might include additional COVID-19 recovery provisions, it's important that the nonprofit priorities be considered.

Please [read the letter here](#) and [sign the letter here](#).



### **Join us virtually for the Nebraska Poetry Out Loud State Finals!**

The broadcast will be streamed Friday, March 11 at 6:00pm CST/5:00pm MST, and can be viewed on the NAC website. Watch along as six students from across Nebraska compete for the Poetry Out Loud State Championship. Nebraska's state champ will go on to compete nationally with students from all fifty states.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 6 STATE FINALISTS!**

Burwell High School | Jayna Moses, 11th grade  
Callaway Public School | Uotong Haidle, 9th grade  
Gordon-Rushville High School | Tessa Hurlburt, 11th grade  
Marian High School | Madeleine Smith, 10th grade  
Skutt Catholic High School | Alexandra Rose Zaleski, 12th grade  
Thayer Central Community Schools | Elle Sudbeck, 10th grade

Find out more [here!](#)

### **NAC Grants - Set deadline March 15**

**Nebraska Arts Council (NAC)** has opened its Fiscal Year 2022 Set Deadline Grants. This round has a March 15,





2022 deadline. There are additional guidelines regarding a Federal Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and additional updates.

The following categories are open:

- **Artists in Schools/Communities**
- **Arts Learning Project Grants**
- **Arts Project Grants**

Contact your NAC Program Staff contact or [nac.grants@nebraska.gov](mailto:nac.grants@nebraska.gov) if you have questions.



NEBRASKA'S  
**2022 YOUTH POET LAUREATE**  
SEARCH HAS BEGUN

Calling all young spoken word artists, poets, lyrists,  
writers, creators, and visionaries

**Applications Open Monday, February 7, 2022**

The YPL will receive \$1,000, up to \$2,000 towards  
a community-engagement project of their design, year-long  
guidance from a creative and civic mentor, and up to 6 public  
readings in Nebraska.

Also, being Nebraska's YPL makes them eligible to compete in the  
regional and national Youth Poet Laureate competitions.

<https://www.newriters.org/ypl>

## **Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate - deadline March 25**

The National Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) Competition is an initiative of Urban World in collaboration with local youth literary arts organizations across the country. The program identifies youth poets with a history of artistic success, civic and community engagement, social justice initiatives, and leadership.

The Nebraska Writers Collective is on the search for the next youth artist to represent the state in both regional and national competitions.

To apply or learn more, **go here**.



## **Lux Center for the Arts: Artist Residency**

If you're an emerging artist looking for quality teaching experience, private studio space, gallery representation, financial support, and a collaborative, uplifting environment in which to nurture your artistic practice, the 2022-2023 LUX Artist-in-Residency Program is the

perfect opportunity for you!

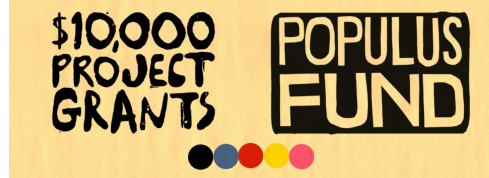
We are currently hiring for a ceramic artist and a 2d/mixed media artist. A strong desire to teach is required. Artists with more than one area of expertise and a BFA/MFA or equivalent experience are preferred. This residency can be extended an additional year if both the LUX and the artist agree. Application Deadline: April 15.

Find out more **here**.

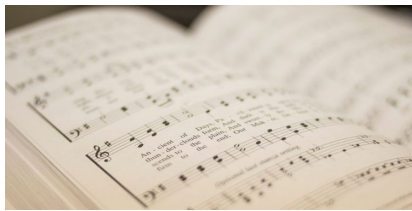
## **\$10,000 Grants for Visual Artists**

The Union for Contemporary Art, a nonprofit arts organization in Omaha, NE, has organized a funding opportunity for artists called the Populus Fund.

Through the generous support of the **Andy Warhol Foundation** for the Visual Arts, the Populus Fund will award a total of six \$10,000 grants for projects with a visual arts component. Artists or artist groups residing within 80-miles of The Union are eligible to apply.



The deadline to apply is April 24, 2022. For more information, please visit [www.u-ca.org/populusfund](http://www.u-ca.org/populusfund) where you can find FAQs. For any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [populusfund@u-ca.org](mailto:populusfund@u-ca.org).



### Submit Your Original Music to "What If..."

Nebraska Public Media hosts a television series titled "What If..." that focuses on Nebraska innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. One important, fun, and unique aspect of the "What if..." project is their use of original music

submitted by Nebraska composers. They've already used 99 pieces of music from 23 different composers in the series (including many from college-age and younger creators), and are currently accepting submissions for more new and original music of all kinds!

Please visit [nebraskapublicmedia.org/WhatIf](http://nebraskapublicmedia.org/WhatIf) for more information on requirements and how to submit your music.



### Temporary Position with Lincoln Arts Council

The Lincoln Arts Council will partner with Americans for the Arts (AFTA) in a national study of the economic impact of the arts in communities during the 2022 calendar year. This is the 5th study that LAC has participated in.

**LINCOLN  
ARTS  
COUNCIL**

The project will require an average of 5 hours per week throughout the year totaling approximately 300 hours. There will be some down times and others that are very busy, especially at the start and end of the project. The final product is a well-respected research report with AFTA.

To apply or learn more, go [here](#).



### Nebraskans for the Arts

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