



## **August 2023 Newsletter**

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

- Announcing NFTA's new Executive Director -Dr. Lance Nielsen
- New NFTA Phone Number
- Worldwide Music on the Porch Day - August 26
- Federal Arts Advocacy Update from Americans for the Arts
- Nonprofit Capacity Building Program - apply by Sept. 1
- National Willa Cather Center presents A Special Event With Ken Burns - Sept. 27
- NDE and NAC partner on Arts NOW grant program - apply by October 13
- 2023-24 NebraskARTS Award Applications - apply by October 13
- Fall Platte River Art Show - October 13-15



## **Announcing Nebraskans for the Arts' new Executive Director: Dr. Lance Nielsen**

Nebraskans for the Arts is happy to announce our new Executive Director, Dr. Lance Nielsen! Lance will take over from current ED Petra Wahlqvist on September 1st, 2023. NFTA wants to thank Petra for her outstanding service since August 2021, and wishes her well in her new endeavors!

Dr. Lance D. Nielsen is a retired music educator and arts administrator. He served as the Supervisor of Music for Lincoln Public Schools and teaching appointments included Associate Professor of Music at Doane University, instrumental music teacher at Lincoln East High School, Norris Public Schools, and Kimball Public Schools in Nebraska.

He has served in various leadership positions including President of the North Central Division of NAFME and President of the Nebraska Music Educators Association. He has served on various boards including Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, the UNL Hixson-Lied Performing Arts College Alumni Board, and the Abendmusik Board.

Dr. Nielsen received his Bachelor of Science in Education, Master of Music with an emphasis in Music Education, and Doctorate of Philosophy in Music with an emphasis in Music Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

You can contact Lance at [lance@nebraskansforthearts.org](mailto:lance@nebraskansforthearts.org)



**New Phone Number for Nebraskans for the Arts**

NFTA has a new phone number: 402.853.4461. Feel free to contact us via phone or text!

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## Worldwide Music on the Porch Day - August 26!

This weekend, gather some friends and play music on your porch! This Saturday, August 26th, is the worldwide Music on the Porch Day! Have fun making and sharing music!

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## Federal Arts Advocacy Update

Nationwide advocacy efforts helped produce the following outcomes in the FY'24 Senate Appropriations bills:

- **\$207 million each** for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (no cuts in funding from FY'23 and consistent with the caps of the Debt Ceiling deal).
- **\$18.6 billion** for Title I-A, which includes funding for well-rounded programs to support Arts Education (\$2 billion increase from FY'23)
- **\$1.4 billion** for the Title IV-A block grant which can be used for arts education programs both in schools as well as for after-school programming. (Slight increase)
- **\$2.19 billion** for Title II-A for professional development for school faculty, including arts educators (Level funding with last year's FY'23 appropriations).



Thanks to **Americans for the Arts** for keeping us updated!

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## **NDE and Nebraska Arts Council partner for Arts NOW Grant Program**

The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Arts Council are excited to announce their partnership to bring the Arts NOW Grants to Nebraska's public schools.

Arts NOW Grants are for arts education projects in Nebraska schools. This special grant program will only be available for SY 2023-2024. Arts NOW is a competitive grant program supporting arts education projects that help students in grades K through 12 achieve artistic excellence while implementing **Nebraska's Fine Arts Standards**.

Each school district in Nebraska is invited to submit one application describing their project and the impact it will have on their students and arts education in their school. Based on the number of students impacted, public schools districts may apply in one of three funding tiers.

Applications are due by Friday, October 13, 2023.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

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## **Apply Now to OCF's Nonprofit Capacity Building Program**

Through dynamic professional development activities and executive coaching

sessions, the Nonprofit Capacity Building programs helps nonprofit leaders of color strengthen their organization, expand their network, and amplify their impact in the community.

Up to 10 leaders will participate in a 10-month curriculum designed to unpack and uplift their unique experiences while also increasing their organizational and leadership capacity. Participants will receive a \$5,000 grant for personal and organizational development.

The program operates with the understanding that nonprofit leaders are best suited to identify and address the needs of their organization. To support these efforts, Omaha Community Foundation offers resources that include cohort-based peer learning, diverse coaches and facilitators, and personal and professional development coaching, as well as workshops on infrastructure, governance, and operations.

Applications are due by September 1st.

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

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## **The National Willa Cather Center presents A Special Event with Ken Burns**

The National Willa Cather Center is pleased to collaborate with Symphony Space and Ken Burns in a sesquicentennial celebration of Willa Cather! Join them in New York City for this special evening of short fiction in performance that brings to life the landscapes that Willa Cather so masterfully captured in her prose. With performances by Patricia Clarkson (She Said), Sonia Manzano (Sesame Street), David Strathairn (Nomadland), and more.

The performance takes place on September 27 at 7:00 p.m. ET at the Symphony Space in NYC. Livestream tickets are also available for remote viewers.

To learn more and purchase tickets, go [here](#).

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## Apply for the 2023-24 NebraskARTS Award!

Each year, Nebraskans for the Arts honors two Nebraska school or school districts that have supported and encouraged achievement in the media arts, visual arts, dance, music, or theatre

The application form for 2023-24 is now available!

The winners receive a Legislative Resolution, a special trophy, and a celebration at their location.

Applications are due on Friday, October 13, 2023 by 11:59pm and the two winners for 2023-24 will be notified by Monday, December 11, 2023.

For more information and to apply, [go here](#).

**PLATTE RIVER ART SHOW**  
FRI, OCT. 13- SUN, OCT. 15, 2023  
PAINTINGS • SCULPTURE • PHOTOGRAPHY • POTTERY • MORE!

"THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ART SHOW ON THE RIVER"  
LOCATED IN THE PETER KIEWIT LODGE AT E.T. MAHONEY STATE PARK  
Hosted by Nye Street Studio

**FRIDAY, OCT 13TH -**  
6:00pm - 9:00pm • Wine and Cheese tasting  
(Upper Level Conference Rooms)

**SATURDAY, OCT 14TH -**  
10:00am - 7:00pm • Art show hours  
Artists on upper and lower levels!

**SUNDAY, OCT 15TH -**  
9:00am - 4:00pm • Art show hours  
Artists on upper and lower levels!

Food Trucks on-site on Saturday (11a-7p) and Sunday (11a-3p)!

**NEBRASKA** - SAME PARKS -  
28500 W. Park Hwy  
Ashland, NE 68003  
OutdoorNebraska.org

NE STATE PARK PERMIT REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.

**The Fall Platte River Art Show at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park  
October 13th - 15th, 2023**



Mark your calendars for the Fall Platte River Art Show at Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Nebraska. The dates are October 13th - 15th, 2023.

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## Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today! Memberships start at \$25/year!

If you are not yet a member of Nebraskans for the Arts, now is a great time to change that! Individual memberships start at \$25/year. Memberships support NFTA advocacy and activities.

To become a member, visit our website [here](#).



### Nebraskans for the Arts

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