



February 2024 Newsletter

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

- Arts Advocacy Day
- Poetry Out Loud State Competition
- Legislative Updates
- Artist Opportunities
- Midwest Youth Poet Laureate Winner
- Congratulations to our Newest Creative Districts
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!



2024 Arts Advocacy Day

The 2024 Arts Advocacy Day was held at the Nebraska State Capitol on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

We had one of our largest attendee advocacy events with representatives from all across Nebraska. Sessions on Advocacy Training, Economic and Prosperity Reports, Funding Expos, and Arts Education Forums were provided. Attendees were able to meet with State Senators and Legislative Aides throughout the day as well as making connections with each other.

Thank you for your participation! Advocating for the arts is something we do all year round, so please stay connected with NFTA and your elected officials.

To view pictures from the Arts Advocacy Day, go [HERE](#).

Poetry Out Loud State Competition



Join us at POL State Finals!

Free and open to the public

Sheldon Museum of Art, 12th and R Street, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, March 9, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm



Matt Mason, Nebraska State Poet, will serve as Emcee for state finals

Maria Corpuz, Journalist and Poet will be our special guest presenter. Maria Corpuz has been exploring ways to utilize the power of collaborative conversation to improve her community. Born and raised in Omaha, her work spans across multiple platforms in efforts such as grassroots journalism, startups, politics, non-profit partnerships, arts and culture. Corpuz believes that storytelling expands universal empathy and builds connection within the community. She currently hosts Riverside chats, a local public radio show, as well as other events around the community.



State finals contestants include students from Burwell High School, Cedar Catholic High School, Marian High School, Lexington Public Library, Skutt Catholic High School, Summerland Public School, and Wahoo High School.

For more information, go [HERE](#).



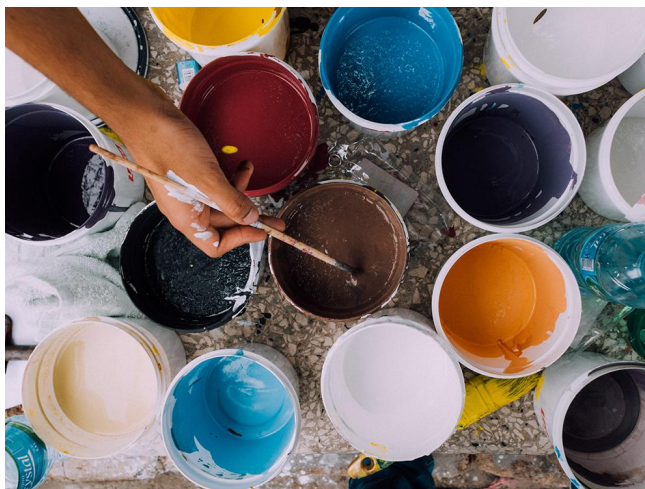
Legislative Updates

Nebraskans for the Arts is monitoring a variety of bills in the current legislative session. Key bills we are engaged with are:

- LB605 - Arts Therapy Certification, moving forward
- LB1067 - Inheritance Tax which could impact the use of Visitors Promotion/Improvement Funds
- LB1413 - Transfer and provide for the transfer of funds by State Treasury; one of those funds is the Civic & Community Center Fund which will impact grant funding for Creative Districts in 25-26.

For more information on all current federal and state bills that may impact the arts, go [HERE](#).

ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES



Artist Opportunities supported by Nebraska Arts Council

Please check out artist in residency and calls for artist exhibitions that are coming up in the Month of March and April.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Midwest Youth Poet Laureate

The Nebraska Writers Collective (NWC) is pleased to announce that the Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) of Nebraska, Aliyah American Horse, has been appointed the Midwest Youth Poet Laureate! American Horse will serve a one-year term.



She is now one of four, teen finalists in the country vying for the National Youth Poet Laureate title, which was once held by 2021 Inaugural poet, Amanda Gorman. She will perform

her original poetry on the Kennedy Center Stage on April 20, 2024 with the chance of returning home as the 2024-25 United States Youth Poet Laureate.

American Horse says, "To be titled the Midwest Youth Poet Laureate is such an honor and blessing. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be able to speak up about the battles Native American communities face everywhere."

Congratulation to Aliyah American Horse!

Here's a **VIDEO** of last year's Youth Poet Laureate ceremony, featuring five finalists including Aliyah American Horse. *Credit to Anna Reed.*



Congratulations to the newest Creative Districts



Congratulations to the newest Nebraska Creative Districts

- Holdrege ([Iron Horse Creative District](#))
- Tecumseh ([Tecumseh Historic Downtown Creative District](#))
- David City ([Destination David Creative District](#))
- Valentine ([Heart City Creative District](#))

HERE is a list of all of the Certified Creative Districts

We need your voice for the Arts!
Join and support Nebraskans for the Arts!

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. Creative Districts is a new membership level. Memberships support NFTA advocacy and activities. Together, we can make a difference.

JOIN NFTA



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