

March 2024 Newsletter

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

- LB605 Arts Therapy Certification Passes
- Poetry Out Loud State Competition Winners
- Legislative Updates
- Artist Opportunities
- NFTA Membership Changes Coming
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!



LB 605, Arts Therapy Certification

Art Therapists in Nebraska officially won licensure in our state after **LB605** was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Pillen on March 11, 2024.

Congratulations and Thank you to all of the NFTA members that have advocated for this bill over the years.

During Creative Arts Therapies Week, the third week of March, we raise awareness and say thank you for art therapy and other life-enhancing mental health professions.

Poetry Out Loud State Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!



Elizabeth Buescher, a junior at Marian High School in Omaha, was named the 2024 Poetry Out Loud Nebraska State Champion. Elizabeth was one of six students from high schools across the state who competed for the title on Saturday, March 9, at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln.

William Mortensen from Wahoo High School was named first runner-up, and Carlee Livingston from Summerland Public School in Ewing was named second runner-up.

The event featured special guest presenter, Maria Corpuz, and Emcee, Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason.



Legislative Updates

Nebraskans for the Arts is still listening and engaging with our senators during these last few weeks of this legislative session. Most of the focus is on various tax bills that will have an indirect impact on the arts and arts education.

More information may be found on the [NFTA Legislative Updates](#).

- LB1067 - Inheritance Tax which could impact the use of Visitors Promotion/Improvement Funds still in first round debate.
- LB1412 and LB1413 - State budget bills are moving to next round of debates.
- Tax rate bills must be passed by April 4th. If they do not fully fund the Governor's plan to reduce property taxes by 40%, he has indicated a special session will be called to continue the process.



ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES

Artist Opportunities supported by Nebraska Arts Council

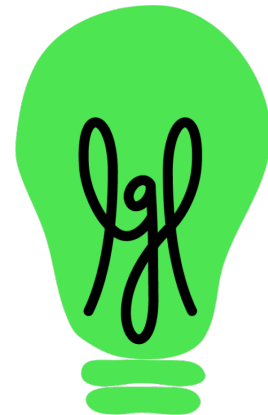
Please check out artist in residency and calls for artist exhibitions that are coming up later this spring and summer.

Please check out the [Artist Opportunities](#) available on the NAC website.

NFTA Membership Updates

Navigating to Little Green Light

NFTA is navigating to a new membership database system called Little Green Light over the next two months. This does not change or impact you as a member or the different levels of donation. There will be slight changes and additions to how you are notified of membership renewal and acknowledgements. We will alert current members of those changes once we go live with Little Green Light.



NFTA's fiscal year and membership timeline is July 1 - June 30.

There is still time to RENEW or become a NEW member of Nebraskans for the Arts.

We need your voice for the Arts!

"Advocacy is a wellness program, not an emergency room visit!"
With that analogy, think of joining NFTA as your "health program for the arts".
Together, we can make a difference.

Individual memberships start at \$25/year.

Creative Districts is a new membership level and we welcome you to join NFTA.

Memberships support NFTA advocacy and activities on your behalf.

[JOIN NFTA](#)



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