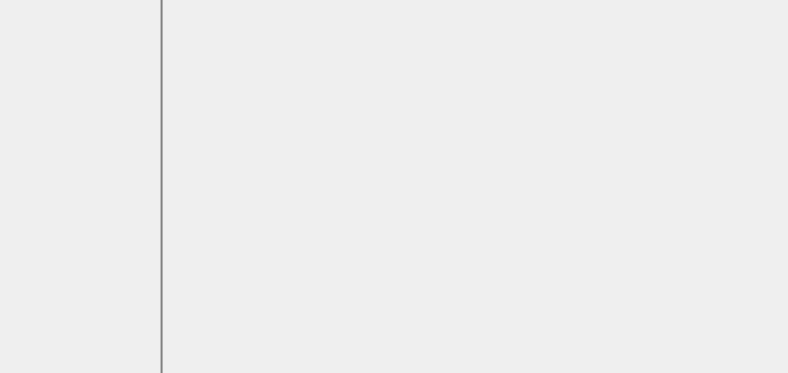
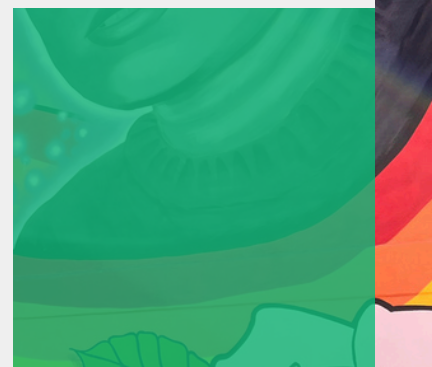
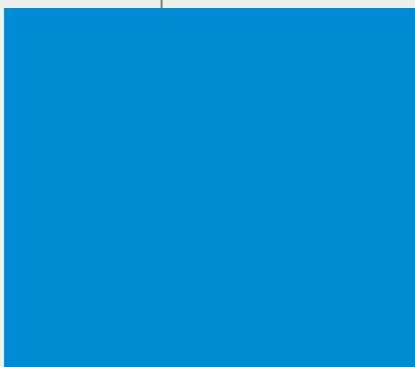
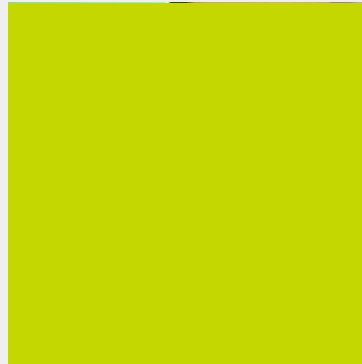


2023-24

Annual Report

NEBRASKANS
FOR THE
ARTS



Executive Director's Report

Dear Respected Members of Nebraskans for the Arts,

Over this past year, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Executive Director. It has been a year of learning, meeting new people, and advocating for ALL of the arts.

During the NFTA 2023-24 fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), the NFTA Board of Directors conducted and adopted a new strategic plan, revised the association's by-laws, implemented a new membership CRM, and expanded our advocacy efforts through the Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network. We also celebrated the passage of LB605, the Arts Therapy Certification Bill.

In February, we were able to bring back the Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, the first time since the pandemic. There was a record 130 people registered for this event including many representatives of the 30+ Creative Districts across the state. We are excited to have their advocacy voice.

Thank you for your continued support of NFTA and the arts and creative workforce in Nebraska.

Dr. Lance Nielsen

Executive Director



Board of Directors

2023-24 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Steve Barth	President
Rex Barth	Past-President
Jarod Ockander	Treasurer
Mike Markey	Ex-officio, Secretary
Matthew Boring	Vice-President of Legislative Committee
Danielle Laurion	Vice-President of Arts Education Committee
Marty Skomal	Vice-President of Marketing & Membership Committee

Members at Large

Patsy Koch Johns	Daniel Martinez
Francene Blythe-Lewis	Vijay Olander
Brent Comstock	Bart Vargas
Jerome Dubas	Barbara Zach Lee
Jason R. Fischer	Cody Talarico, Ex-Officio
Darrel Huenergardt	

Executive Director

Dr. Lance Nielsen



Nebraskans for the Arts Strategic Plan

In order to enhance NFTA's continuity and strategies for the future, the Board of Directors has reaffirmed our mission and vision for the next three years. Within the scope of our strategic plan, four main strategic directions have been established:

- #1 Membership Engagement.
- #2 Create positive change through advocacy.
- #3 Raise visibility of organization through purposeful communications.
- #4 Build organizational vitality and capacity.

Mission

Advancing the arts as essential to life and learning for all Nebraskans.



Vision

- All communities offer professional arts experiences, and every Nebraskan has the opportunity to be enriched by them.
- The arts are part of every child's basic education. Every Nebraska school has a comprehensive and sequential arts program for all students taught by certified teachers.



- The arts are perceived to be critical for a well-educated workforce and the state's economic prosperity. Nebraska's elected officials and business leaders invest public and private resources to support arts education and arts organizations.
- Nebraska is known for its many cultural opportunities and for a vibrant and creative environment that nurtures the development of students, artists, and arts organizations.

Advocacy Efforts

STATE:

LB605 Passes: As of March 11, 2024, art therapists in Nebraska are licensed. To become certified as an art therapist in Nebraska, an applicant must provide evidence to the Department of Health and Human Services.

LB1413 - NFTA opposed the sweeping redistribution of select funds. Although it did pass, there was a reduction in the amount of CCCFF funds that was swept and a commitment by the legislature to support grant payments for the FY24-25.

Advocacy efforts in the upcoming year will focus on expanding appropriations for arts grants and creative districts.

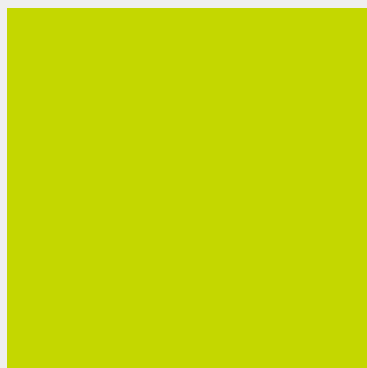
FEDERAL:

NFTA participated in the Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund Federal Advocacy Fly-In during the month of May. Areas of focus:

- FY24 Appropriations for National Endowment of the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities
- Supporting Arts Education - ESSA Title I, Title II, & Title IV, Arts Education for All Act (H.R. 5463) introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01), and Reimagining Inclusive Arts Education Act (H.R. 7261) introduced by Rep. David Scott (GA-13)

Executive Director Nielsen also met in person with U.S. Congressmen and Senators in Washington D.C. in June.

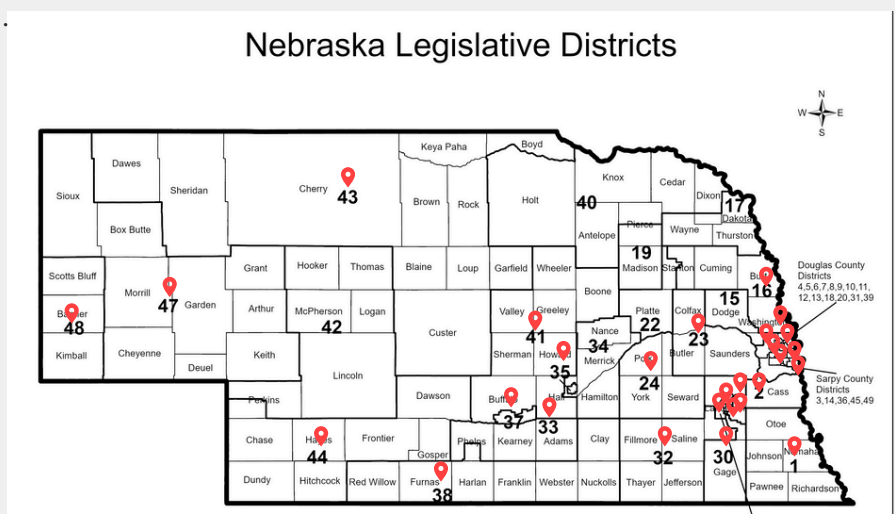
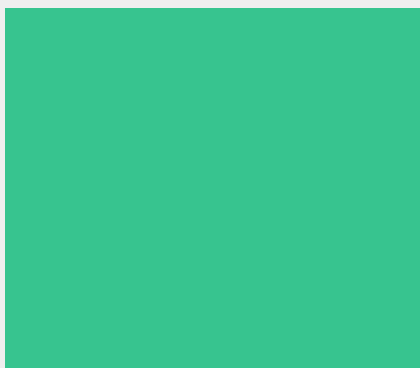




Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network

The Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network (NAAN) is a grassroots coalition of arts administrators, arts educators, artists, and arts enthusiasts committed to advocating for arts and culture across the state of Nebraska.

We believe that in order for advocacy to be effective, it must be sustained year-round. NAAN members advance this idea by building relationships with their state senators, working together to resolve issues in their communities' arts sectors, and recruiting their friends and colleagues to engage in arts advocacy efforts.



35

Current NAAN
Representatives

49

Legislative
Districts



Snapshot of Financial Position

Public Support and Revenue

Grants	\$55,500
Arts Advocacy Day	\$2,660
Membership	\$17,543
TOTAL	\$75,703

Expenses

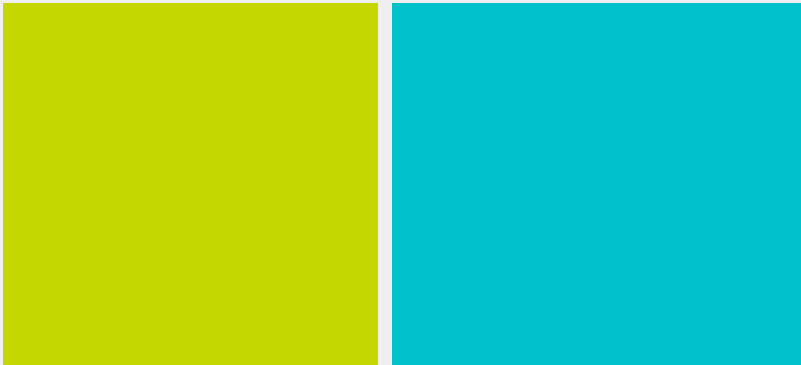
Admin. Director Expenses	\$56,160
Events / Programs	\$1,848
Office Expenditures	\$5,397
Arts Organization Memberships	\$1,652
Contractual Services	\$8,820
TOTAL	\$73,877

Net Asset

Unrestricted

\$28,952.00

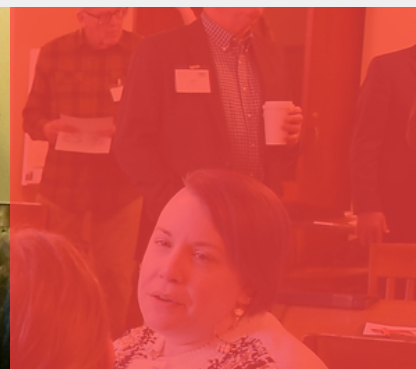
Fiscal Year, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



Members and Donors

The focus on NFTA membership and donors this past year was on retaining and recruiting. The addition of Little Green Light as our membership CRM is assisting us with long term membership engagement.

NFTA Membership	As at June 30		Change	
	2022	2023	#	%
Level				
Individual	35	47	+12	34%
Friend	18	32	+14	77%
Sponsor	17	11	-6	-35%
Patron	9	6	-3	-33%
Benefactor	1	3	+2	200%
Organization	2	4	+2	100%
NAC Basic Support Grant Organizations	31	33	+2	6%
NAC Annual & Series Grant Organizations	13	12	-1	-8%
Creative District	0	3	+3	300%
Student	0	2	+2	200%
Other / Donor	1	2	+1	100%
Total Members	127	155	+28	+22%





NebraskARTS Awards

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

Congratulations to Kenesaw Public Schools and Bridgeport Public Schools for receiving the 2024 NebraskARTS Award.

Executive Director Lance Nielsen presented the award at both schools during their spring art show and music concerts.

Kenesaw
Public
School



Bridgeport
Public
School



Program Highlights

Poetry Out Loud

NFTA supported the Nebraska Arts Council Poetry Out Loud Finals held at Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln, March 2024



Arts Advocacy Day

AAD was back at the State Capitol for the first time since the pandemic. There were 130 advocates representing arts education, arts organizations, and creative districts in attendance.



Monthly Advocacy Blogs

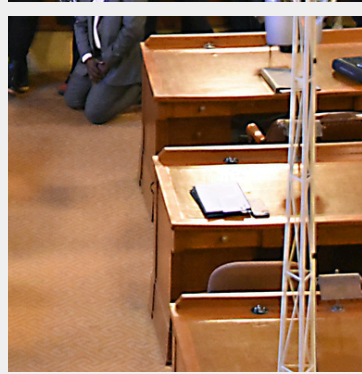
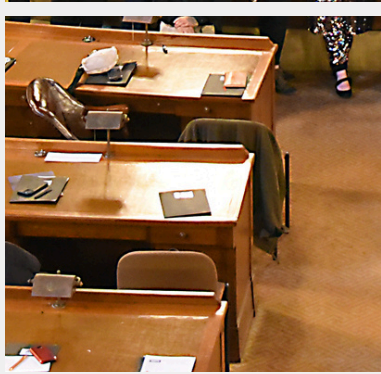
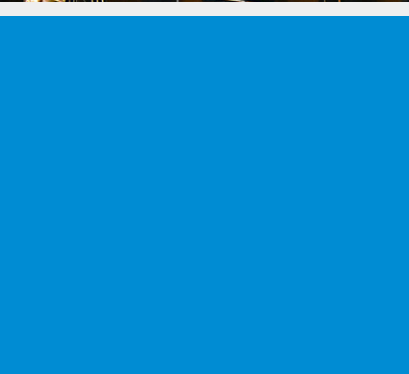
Guest writers shared stories and tips of successful advocacy strategies. The Arts Advocacy Blog Gallery is posted on the NFTA website.



Creative District Visits


NFTA representatives visited and attended various arts events in Creative Districts across the state.







Thank You

Thank you for your support of Nebraskans for the Arts and your advocacy for arts and arts education. Please don't forget to renew your membership this year. Together, we can make a difference.

 402-853-4461

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 www.nebraskansforthearts.org