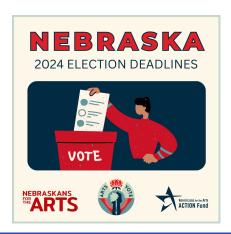
Call us at 402.853.4461



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August 2024 Arts Update Newsletter

A newsletter for the arts community



Here is what we have included for you in this issue of the Arts Update Newsletter:

- Election 2024 ArtsVote in Nebraska
- Statewide Arts Conference Registration Deadline Aug. 28
- Celebrate National Arts in Education Week Sept. 9-13
- NebraskARTS Award Applications Deadline Oct. 18
- Summer Advocacy News
- Grant Opportunities
- NFTA Annual Report
- Benefits of being an NFTA member.
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!

Election 2024 - ArtsVote in Nebraska



Ensure Your Vote is COUNTED on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 The Nebraskans for the Arts has contacted all candidates for U.S. Congress, State Legislature, State School of Education, and University of Nebraska Board of Regents asking for their participation in an arts and arts education survey. This is a nonpartisan survey and NFTA is not endorsing any one candidate. Information from the candidates who respond will be posted on the **Election Center of the NFTA website** by September 8, 2024.

Please keep in mind the voting requirements and deadlines for registering and early voting in our state. Please take a look at the **ArtsVote in Nebraska informational page.**



ArtsVote artwork by Shepard Fairey



ArtsVote in Nebraska MEBRASKANS



Ensure Your Vote is COUNTED on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024

CONFIRM: Pre-Requisites

- Be a U.S. Citizen

 Be at least 18 years of age by Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024

 Live in the state of Nebraska and a resident of the county you are voting

 Have not been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, at least two years have passed since the complesentence for the felony including any parole term

 Have not been adjudged mentally incompetent

STEP 1: Register to Vote & Check Accuracy

Check the Accuracy of your <u>current voter registration</u> or Register to Vote for the first time <u>online</u>, by <u>mail</u>, or <u>insperson</u>. If registering online or by-mail your registration proton, you must do so at your <u>litection officials for fired</u>. If registering proton, you must do so at your <u>litection officials office</u> by <u>Friday</u>. October 25, 2024 by 600pm. If you must be deadlines, you will NOT be able to vote in the 2024 General Election <u>Don't delay, pludge</u> to check the accuracy of your voter status or register to weet by <u>Wednesdyn</u>, September 18, 2024.

STEP 2: Request Your Absentee Ballot (If Preferred)

In Nebrasia, voting by <u>Early Voting Ballot</u> does not require an excuse, but you must apply for it because it will not be sent to you automatically. You must return your COMPLETED and SIGNED Early Voting Ballot Application in <u>person</u>, by mail, or by pemils or its REECEVED by your <u>Election Officials Office</u> by <u>Friday, October 5, 2024 by 600pm. If you miss</u> this deadline, you will have to physically vote in person during Early Voting or on Election Day. To track the status of your <u>Early Voting Ballot</u>. Check Nebrasia's Voter <u>Information Lookup. Don't delay, if you prefer to vote by mail</u>, pledge to return your <u>Early Voting Ballot</u> Application by <u>Friday</u>, October 4, 2024.

STEP 3: Cast Your Vote

EARLY VOTING BALLOT: Cast your vote by mail or hand-delivering your COMPLETED and SIGNED Early Voting Ballot to your <u>Election Official</u>, so it is RECEIVED by Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024 by 8:00pm. Don't delay, pledge to return your completed Early Voting Ballot by Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

OR.

- OR - NP-ERSON VOTING: Cast your vote early in-person at your local <u>Election Official's Office</u>. Early Voting lasts from Monday, October 7, 2024 to Monday, November 4, 2024. If you choose to vote in-person on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024 polling hours take place between 800ma and 800pm at your correct <u>Polling Place</u>. Always zero to bring your government ID with you. <u>Don't delay, pledge to cast your vote in-person during Early Voting and avoid the Election Day crows.</u>

STEP 4: Celebrate Your Vote

Celebrate being an ArtsVote leader by posting a selfie of you mailing in your bailot or wearing an "I Voted" sticker on social media. You can also share one of our <u>Shepard Fairey "ArtsVote" images</u>. Make sure to use #ArtsVote and tag @ArtsActionFund Incourage your network to also take the gledge to make their vote count by learning the new voting rules and deadlines in their own states <u>www.ArtsActionFund.org/Artsvote-Pledge-2024</u>.



Statewide Arts Conference Deadline to Register - Wed. August 28



Join artists and arts administrators on Sept 5th & 6th in beautiful Beatrice, NE! On Thursday, Sept 5th, the 1st annual Assembly of Nebraska Creative Districts (current and future)

On Friday, Sept 6th, the Statewide Arts Conference for artists, organizations, and art enthusiasts

Refer to the NAC website to learn about the speakers, performances, and sessions!

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, August 28!

Celebrate National Arts in Education Week

During this week in September, we recognize the value of the arts in education and promote equitable access for students of all backgrounds.

What can you do to celebrate?

- Register for the Arts Education
 Alliance webinar, "Empowering
 Teachers to Advocate for Federal
 and State Arts Education Policy",
 on Sept 10 at 6:00 p.m. (ET)
- Post on social media why arts education was important to you or your family. @Neb4TheArts
- Attend a local school's music concert, art gallery, dance, or theatre production.
- Donate to the NFTA Arts
 Education Campaign. This fund
 supports the NebraskARTS Award,
 student recognition, and educators'
 professional learning.



Donate for Arts Education



2024-25 NebraskARTS Award Applications



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.

The application deadline is Friday, October 18, 2024, and the two winners for 2024-25 will be notified in December 2024.

The application form is available at **NebraskARTS Award**.

Summer Advocacy Update

Thank you to the members of the NFTA Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network (NAAN) for contacting your elected officials this summer. If you would like to become a representative

and advocate on NAAN, contact us through the **Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network on our website**.

Federal

Senate Appropriations Committee allocated an increase in funding to \$209 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the FY'25 Interior Appropriations bill, which is a \$2 million increase above current FY'24 funding levels for each agency.

Two amendments were defeated in the House that attempted to make deep cuts to the NEA and NEH. Overall funding level in the House-passed bill allocated only \$203.9 million each to these cultural agencies.

State

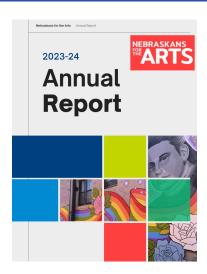
The special session of the State Legislature focused on property tax relief.

The initial LB1, LB2, and LB3 were watered down considerably into LB34. The original bills would have caused a drastic shift in how public schools are funded. This would have caused a loss of local control of public schools and budget uncertainty.

Also, shifting revenue to sales tax on certain services would have impacted many arts-related businesses and private studios.

LB 34 was passed and signed by the governor. This final bill does put an inflationary cap on cities, counties, and villages.

Property tax and the reduction of funding for state agencies will be an area to watch in the next legislative session.



NFTA 2023-24 Annual Report

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 By-Laws, and expanded our advocacy efforts through the Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network.

Read more about the entire Annual Report on the **NFTA's Latest News** under Annual Reports.

Grant Opportunities

Nebraska Arts Council funds art projects and programs of the highest artistic excellence that reflect creativity and innovation while providing opportunities for artists and arts organizations.





To explore and learn more about available grants, please visit the **Nebraska Arts Council Grants**.

Benefits of being a member of Nebraskans for the Arts

We value your membership and donations to NFTA. Your support is helping us

expand our capacity to advocate for art education, artists and arts organizations, and creative districts across the State of Nebraska. We are your VOICE in arts advocacy.

As a member of NFTA, you receive:

- Two Newsletters
 - NFTA Arts Update Newsletter (5 times a year)
 - Arts Advocate Newsletter (monthly)
- Reduced registration fee for Arts Advocacy Day.
- Advocacy support and a voice at the state and federal levels.



JOIN NFTA TODAY!

Your support of Nebraskans for the Arts, combined with other arts advocates and supporters, helps us reach out to policymakers and community leaders as we share the impact of the arts on our economy and the importance of arts education for our children.

Together, we can make a difference for the Arts.

Individual memberships start at \$25/year.

BSG / ASE Grant Winners and Creative Districts are encouraged to join.

We continue to advocate for you and your voice matters!

JOIN NFTA









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Website

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