

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




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.

Ensure Your Vote is
COUNTED on
Election Day,
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 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
(Updated as of 6/25/24)

NEBRASKANS FOR THE ARTS

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 completion of your sentence 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 current voter registration or Register to Vote for the first time online, by mail, or in-person. If registering online or by mail, your registration must be SUBMITTED or RECEIVED by your Election Official's Office by **Friday, October 18, 2024**. If registering in-person, you must do so at your Election Official's Office by **Friday, October 25, 2024** by 6:00pm. If you miss these deadlines, you will NOT be able to vote in the 2024 General Election. *Don't delay, pledge to check the accuracy of your voter status or register to vote by Wednesday, September 18, 2024.*

STEP 2: Request Your Absentee Ballot (If Preferred)

In Nebraska, voting by Early Voting Ballot 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-person, by mail, or by email so it is RECEIVED by your Election Official's Office by **Friday, October 25, 2024** by 6:00pm. If you miss this deadline, you will have to physically vote in-person during Early Voting or on Election Day. To track the status of your Early Voting Ballot, check Nebraska's Voter Information Lookup. *Don't delay, if you prefer to vote by mail, pledge to return your Early Voting Ballot Application by Friday, 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 Election Official, 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 -

IN-PERSON VOTING: Cast your vote early in-person at your local Election Official's Office. 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 8:00am and 8:00pm at your correct Polling Place. Always be sure to bring your government ID with you. *Don't delay, pledge to cast your vote in-person during Early Voting and avoid the Election Day crowds.*

STEP 4: Celebrate Your Vote

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



For general election information, visit sos.nebraska.gov/elections/general-voter-information.
For military and overseas voters, visit sos.nebraska.gov/elections/military-voters.
For voters with disabilities, visit sos.nebraska.gov/elections/accessible-voting.

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



Nebraskans for the Arts

1004 Farnam St., Plaza Level
Omaha, NE 68102
402.853.4461



Website

Nebraskans for the Arts | PO Box 8517 | Omaha, NE 68108 US

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