

October is National Arts & Humanities Month (NAHM)! This year's theme, "The Arts Within You," reminds us how art helps us cope with life, promotes well-being, and builds empathy and resilience. Whether through creative expression, reducing stress, or fostering connections, the arts make a difference!

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

- ARTSVOTE 2024
- Nebraska's Arts Education Data Project
- NebraskARTS Award Applications Deadline Oct. 18
- A win for Arts Education
- Celebrating 40 years of NFTA at Arts Advocacy Day
- Grant Opportunities
- Benefits of being an NFTA member and Giving Tuesday!
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!





Early voting begins TODAY - October 7,

As citizens, we hold a tremendous

#### 2024.

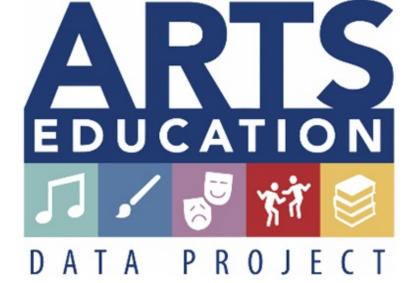
To help you be informed, Nebraskans for the Arts conducted an arts survey with all candidates for U.S. Congress, State Legislature, State School of Education, and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents This is a nonpartisan survey and NFTA is not endorsing any one candidate. Information about the candidates who responded may be found on the **Election Center of the NFTA website**.

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** for other important information on polling sites, photo voter ID requirements, and power in our hands—our vote. This simple act not only shapes the direction of our community, state, and country but also strengthens the democratic process that lies at the heart of our nation. As Election Day approaches in Nebraska, it's crucial to be well-prepared and informed to make your vote count. As arts advocates, we need to understand how candidates view the arts within our society in order to understand, if elected, their potential action with arts policy.

Please read the **September** Advocacy Blog about how to prepare for this important election.





Bringing the vibrant world of arts education to life through data, Nebraska's Arts Education Data Project is part of a national snapshot of arts education. The interactive data visualization tool allows users to explore enrollment, access, and participation in the arts throughout Nebraska's public school system.

Through interactive charts and graphs, users can uncover trends, identify opportunities, and begin to identify and discuss challenges. The goal of the project is to make this information accessible and to be an impetus for dialog, collaboration, and brainstorming. Together we can ensure every student in Nebraska has opportunities to learn, explore creativity, and hone the processes,

skills, techniques, and connections that allow for artistic expression and understanding, connecting all of us to the human experience.

Visit Nebraska's Arts Education Data Project to learn more about the project, see the data, and for a guide on using Nebraska's Arts Education Data Project.

## 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**.

## A Win For Arts Education

The U.S. Department of Education

issued a **letter of guidance** to Chief State School Officers encouraging schools on how **federal education dollars can be used for arts education in developing a well-rounded education** through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The letter clarifies that school districts can "use Title I, Part A funds to bolster arts education programs as a strategy to support students attending Title I schools with a high percentage of lowincome families in meeting the State's challenging academic standards."

Arts educationincluding dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual artsis key to equitable access to a wellrounded education

### **Arts Advocacy Day - 40 Years**

In the spring of 1985, Nebraskans for the Arts was formed as a new advocacy nonprofit organization. The goal was to be the advocacy voice for all of the arts in Nebraska.

This spring, NFTA will celebrate its 40th anniversary!

#### ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

Will be held in the third week of February at the State Capitol. Special events and activities focused around the 40th year are currently being planned.

Save The Date and Please Plan To Attend! More information will be coming soon!

## **Grant Opportunities**

Mid-American Arts Alliance is a wonderful partner of Nebraskans for the Arts. Besides advocacy support, they also provide many grant opportunities for artists and arts organizations.

Check out the grant opportunities through Mid-America Arts Alliance.



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

# Benefits of membership 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

## **Giving Tuesday**

Nebraskans for the Arts will be participating in Giving Tuesday on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 as a part of Share Omaha Giving.

Help support Arts Education 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.

Programming of NFTA by donating and encouraging others to donate to our arts advocacy cause.

You can donate at any time up through Giving Tuesday by going to SHARE OMAHA



### NONPROFIT MEMBER



## **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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