

Happy New Year from NFTA



REGISTER TODAY

Please join us for **Arts Advocacy Day 2025** at the State Capitol in Lincoln on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 as we advocate for more arts funding for grants to support the arts and creative districts and a renewed focus on the importance of arts education in ALL of our schools.

NFTA also invites you to an **Arts Celebration Reception** on Tuesday, February 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Billy's Restaurant (1301 H Street)

We need your ArtsVoice! Join us for this day of advocacy training, networking, and sharing.

Please refer to the [NFTA Website](#) for more information about **AAD 2025**

REGISTER FOR ARTS ADVOCACY DAY 2025



Nebraskans for the Arts celebrates 40 years of arts advocacy.

In the spring of 1985, the Nebraskans for the Arts was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The sole mission was to become the arts advocacy voice for the State of Nebraska. Representing arts organizations and individual members across the state, NFTA advises policymakers, elected officials, and community leaders on the importance of strong arts education in our schools, the economic impact of the arts in our communities, and the benefits of pro-arts policies for Nebraska.

Over the years, NFTA helped champion initiatives, some of which eventually became law. A few of those advocacy efforts included:

- Support for the Nebraska Cultural Endowment (a one-of-a-kind private/public arts foundation)
- Advocated and Supported the creation of the State Fine Arts Standards with the Nebraska Department of Education in 2014
- Supported the Arts License Plate Initiative
- Advocated and Supported the Creative District Initiative
- Helped advocate the passing of the Arts Therapy Certification Bill

During this next year, we will reflect on our past as well as focus on our future. Advocacy for the arts and humanities is more important now than ever. Together, we can make a difference.



NEBRASKANS
FOR THE
ARTS 40
YEARS



Help us celebrate 40 years of NFTA
with 40 items of art and creative connections.

**Help us tell
our arts stories**



We would appreciate your help.

As a part of our 40th-year celebration of NFTA, we are collecting 40 items representing the impact the arts have on our communities. These items will be compiled into a booklet/folder and presented to each state senator during the 2025 NFTA Arts Advocacy Day. We want to collect items from as many different legislative districts across the state. Please consider joining us in celebrating 40 years of arts advocacy. Refer to the guidelines posted below for details.

[Guidelines for 40 Years of NFTA Project](#)

2024-25 NebraskARTS Award Winners

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



O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Congratulations to O'Neill Public Schools, one of two 24-25 NebraskARTS Award winners.

As a part of their application, one person wrote, "It is evident that O'Neill Public Schools both appreciate and support many artistic endeavors in many ways. The plethora of activities and events encourage their students to develop intellectual, artistic, imaginative, and performance talents which are benefits to both the students and the world".



OSMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Congratulations to Osmond Community Schools, our second NebraskARTS Award Winner.

One nominator had this to say in their support letter, "Osmond has a very large percentage of students who participate in a wide array of the arts...many of whom are recognized, both individually or as a group, in competitions or performances. For a smaller district, I am amazed at what our students have accomplished".

Remembering Walt Radcliffe

Nebraskans for the Arts mourns the loss of Walt Radcliffe, a long-time lobbyist and a true champion of the arts and humanities of Nebraska. More than that, Walt was a dear friend to many, always willing to share his wit, wisdom, and encouragement. His knowledge and expertise helped guide our work in arts advocacy over the years. He will be greatly missed.



[Walt Radcliffe Obituary](#)



The 109th Legislature, First Session, will convene on January 8, 2025

The Nebraska State Legislature will include some new faces in the chamber this spring. NFTA is expanding our advocacy approaches to foster good working relationships with our elected officials and legislative staffs.

NFTA Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network. All of you are important in creating positive communications with our state senators. If you would like to be more involved, please consider being a representative for your legislative district on the [Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network](#). NAAN members help champion the idea of sustained advocacy efforts 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. We need your voice!

Nebraska Arts Action Fund. This sister arts organization has been around since the early 1990s. Originally called the Nebraska Citizens for Arts Education, it was reformed in 2011 as a 501(c)(4) and became the Nebraska Arts Action Fund. It has recently been reactivated, and we hope to have NAAF become yet another partner in promoting the importance of the arts. NAAF will share more about their efforts in the coming months.

Quorum. In partnership with Americans for the Arts, NFTA will be utilizing a new bill tracking and Action Alert system called Quorum starting in January. This new tool will be used to communicate with our NAAN members and NFTA Board Members when key aspects of legislation impacting the arts needs action. Here is a sample of the [Nebraskans for the Arts Action Center](#) (*still under development*).

Be a part of the Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network

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., Lower Level
Omaha, NE 68102
402.853.4461



Website

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

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