



TAKE ACTION NOW: Defend the Arts - Protect NEA and NEH

Save Nebraska's Cultural Future!

This past weekend, many—though not all—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) direct grantees received grant termination notices. While not unexpected, the cancellation of National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants marks the next step in a deeply troubling pattern of government disinvestment in the arts. This ongoing pattern of disregard threatens vital funding for organizations and communities nationwide and challenges the infrastructure that supports cultural expression, economic opportunity, and community well-being. We must respond strategically and in solidarity to protect what we've built and ensure the arts remain a national priority.

Since 1965, the NEA has extended the reach of creative resources to underserved communities, rural towns, and historically marginalized populations. In the past five years alone, the NEA has distributed \$27,177,676 in federal funding directly or through state and regional partners in Illinois. 40% of the NEA's budget goes directly to state arts agencies, including the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC), which stewards federal funding into every corner of our state.

Nebraskans for the Arts in collaboration with the Americans for the Arts and the Creative States Coalition, is providing an advocacy action plan.

We Need Your Help!

TAKE ACTION NOW:

Step 1 DATA

NFTA has collected data on NEA grants canceled and the economic impact on our communities. We are currently creating a report to share with elected officials. You can also help. Share your impact story with Americans for the Arts. They are aggregating stories and have set up this [story portal](#).

Step 2 MEETINGS WITH WASHINGTON D.C.

NFTA will organize virtual meetings with ALL of our U.S. Elected Officials to share the economic data and ramifications report. We will invite NEA Grantees who have been affected to join in on one of these meetings.

Step 3 LOCAL OFFICE MEETINGS

NFTA is organizing small teams of arts advocates to schedule and meet with staffers at ALL of the local U.S. Senate and Congressman offices. Here is where we need your help. **If you would like to be on one of these advocacy teams for the in-person meetings, email NFTA at info@nebraskansforthearts.org by Thursday, May 8 at noon. Indicate which office you are willing to visit. (see list)** Arts Advocate Teams for each office will be organized and contacted with information on meeting dates and times and all resources to share during the meeting.

Home Office Locations:

- Senator Fischer - Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Scottsbluff
- Senator Ricketts - Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Scottsbluff
- Rep. Flood - Lincoln
- Rep. Bacon - Omaha, Saunders County
- Rep. Smith - Grand Island, Nebraska City, Scottsbluff

Step 4 CONSTANT COMMUNICATIONS

Stay engaged with Nebraskans for the Arts as we fight to defend our cultural future. Please join and stay engaged through the NFTA [Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network Action Center](#).

We need ALL arts advocates to call, email, and write our U.S. Elected Officials. This is not a one-time activity. If you have sent one email, send another one.

Resources:

[DOGE's attacks are not only a failure to understand the impact of arts and culture;](#)

they are also a severe economic miscalculation. According to the [Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account report](#), our sector contributes \$1.2 trillion annually to the US economy and supports 5.2 million jobs.

This is a [Return on Investment \(ROI\) for Nebraska](#). You may refer to the [NFTA Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network](#) for other resources and talking points.

[MAKE A PHONE CALL](#)

[WRITE EMAIL or LETTER](#)

☐☐☐ Engage arts ambassadors from beyond the arts community. Sometimes the best messengers are civic leaders or business people from outside the arts sector. Equip them with the information and tools they need to make the case. The wider the chorus of voices Congress hears, the stronger our cause becomes.

Together, we can ensure our communities continue to thrive through access to the arts and humanities.

[TAKE ACTION NOW](#)

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ARTS **40**
YEARS

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