

Arts Advocacy Updates

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation links: My Elected Officials, Issues, Take Action, Log an Interaction, Become a Member of NFTA, and Hello, Lance! Below the header, there are two main sections. The left section is titled 'Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network' and features a photo of a car with a license plate that reads 'NE 4 ART'. The right section is titled 'Nebraskans for the Arts Registration Form' and contains a large red checkmark icon, a thank-you message, and the organization's name.

WE NEED YOU!

All of you are important in creating positive communications with our state and federal elected officials. And right now, the arts are being threatened through funding reductions and changing ideologies.

Please consider being a representative for your legislative district on the [Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network](#). **Our new Nebraska Arts Action Center** provides you with information about legislation we are following, Action Alerts and Campaigns, and contact information to your elected officials.

We need your voice and we need MANY voices!

Please join the Arts Advocacy Network by registering on our new [NFTA Arts Action Center NOW!](#)

**BECOME AN ARTS ADVOCATE - SIGN UP
NOW**

Celebrating the Arts In Our Schools Month



March is recognized as Arts in Education Month, a time to celebrate and promote the value of arts education in our schools

It's a time to highlight the importance of arts education for students, foster cross-cultural understanding, recognize outstanding young artists and teachers, and enhance public support for arts education.

Arts Advocacy Day 2025



On February 19, NFTA sponsored the 2025 Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.

Even though the weather was extreme, we still had many advocates brave the cold to join in on a day of networking and connections.



Governor Pilleen proclaimed February 19th as Nebraskans for the Arts Day in Nebraska in recognition of 40 years of Advocacy.

The State Legislature also recognized NFTA during their morning session.



AAD 25 included Advocacy sessions, introduction of Jewel Rodgers, our new State Poet, music performances in the rotunda and afternoon breakout sessions at the Scottish Rite Building. We also witnessed an increased engagement with our State Senators.

Poetry Out Loud Winners

Congratulations to all of our Nebraska Poetry Out Loud state finalists!

Lainey Fillmore, from Gordon-Rushville High School, took home the title of State Champion and will be representing Nebraska at the POL National Championship!

Majie Ahna Winfrey, from Marion High School, was the first runner up and Mieke van der Walt, from Burwell High School, was the second runner up.



Essential Workshops for Artists and Arts Leaders

Essentials, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance, is an introductory workshop focused on key capacity building topics. There are two opportunities coming up hosted by Nebraska Arts Council and the LUX Center for the Arts.

Essentials: Diversifying Your Revenue Streams with Becky Boesen

March 27 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm **FREE**



Participants will gain insights into earned income opportunities, individual giving, corporate partnerships, grant funding, and crowdfunding. Through interactive discussions and case studies, attendees will learn how to assess their organization's funding landscape, identify new revenue opportunities, and develop a balanced financial strategy.

Essentials: Strengthening Your Community Engagement with Caleb Fjone

March 28 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm **FREE**



Participants will learn how to leverage partnerships and develop programs that serve their communities. Through interactive discussion and shared learning, attendees will gain practical insights into assessing community needs, building trust, and creating initiatives that encourage long-term involvement.

When is it happening?

This session is held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., on March 27, 2025, at the LUX Center for the Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Learn
More

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Updates: Federal Arts Advocacy

There have been numerous Federal level changes impacting the arts, arts education, and cultural industries. There are too many to address here, but the AFTA Arts Action Fund has provided a resource of [Breaking News Impacting the Arts](#).



FY25 Budget

HoR passed a CR for the FY25 budget keeping level funding for NEA/NEH until next fall. The Senate must pass before Friday evening to avoid a Federal Shutdown. NFTA will submit FY26 Budget Requests with our elected officials on behalf of the arts this next week.

NEA and Kennedy Center

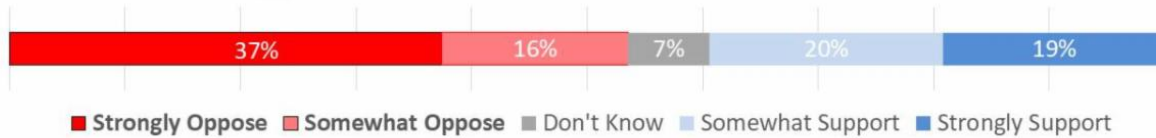
The recent changes at the Kennedy Center and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) under President Trump's leadership have sparked controversy, with concerns raised about potential political influence and censorship of artistic expression. NFTA continues to have conversations with our national partners on how we can best support our state organizations who receive NEA grants and programming by the Kennedy Center.

Department of Education

Of deep concern is the significant staffing reduction at the U.S. Department of Education. While this action signals a significant shift, it's important to remember that fully dismantling a federal agency requires congressional approval. The [Committee for Education Funding](#) and the [Arts Education Alliance](#) is leading a critical advocacy campaign to stop dangerous proposed cuts to federal education funding and push for increased investments in education.

Majority of Likely Voters Think Schools and Teachers Lack Necessary Funding and Resources, Oppose Eliminating the Department of Education

Do you **oppose** or support eliminating the Department of Education?



What is the greater threat to K-12 education?



[Data for Progress survey](#), Nov 20-22, 2024



Updates: The 109th Legislature, First Session

The Nebraska State Legislature is in the middle of their long session. NFTA has testified on three bills and will continue to monitor many bills impacting the arts and arts education.

L.B. 445 The legislation establishes the State Building Construction Alternatives Act, providing alternative contracting methods for state building projects, amends existing statutes to increase bidding thresholds, and repeals 1% for Art procurement requirements for state buildings. We are hoping for an amendment to remove the repeal language. (Oppose)

L.B. 560 The legislation amends Nebraska's tourism statutes to enhance marketing and innovative tourism grants, providing creative districts access to apply for these grants, and requiring detailed plans and reports from grant recipients. (Support)

L.B. 261 Appropriations for Nebraska Arts Council. Funding is neutral, however, a request for an additional \$1 million for the Creative District Program was proposed. (Support)

Nebraska Passport

There are 10 themed tours, taking Passporters across the state. This year features historic treasures, female-powered businesses and a tour dedicated to showing off Nebraska's thriving Creative Districts.



Booklets are available at stops when the program kicks off May 1, or you can pre-order.

[Request your Passport Today](#)

ARE YOU A 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](#)



Nebraskans for the Arts

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