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Nebraskans for the Arts**



**NEBRASKANS  
FOR  
THE  
ARTS**

**-NebraskARTS Awards: Nominate a School-**

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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 form for 2025-26 will be available in late May. Newly revised applications will be published on the NFTA website, so please do not use past nomination forms. Summer is a great time to complete an application to celebrate a Nebraska school or school district with a strong commitment to arts education.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**- Gordon-Rushville HS Student to compete nationally in Poetry Out Loud -**

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Poetry Out Loud is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Laney Fillmore, a student from Gordon-Rushville High School, won the state championship in March and will represent Nebraska at the National Competition in Washington DC. The national semi-final competition will be broadcast live one time only on Tuesday, May 6 beginning at 12:00pm CDT / 11:00am MDT.

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation program for high school students that is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The Nebraska Arts Council manages our statewide program.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**- Art|Play: Connecting contemporary art and children's play-**



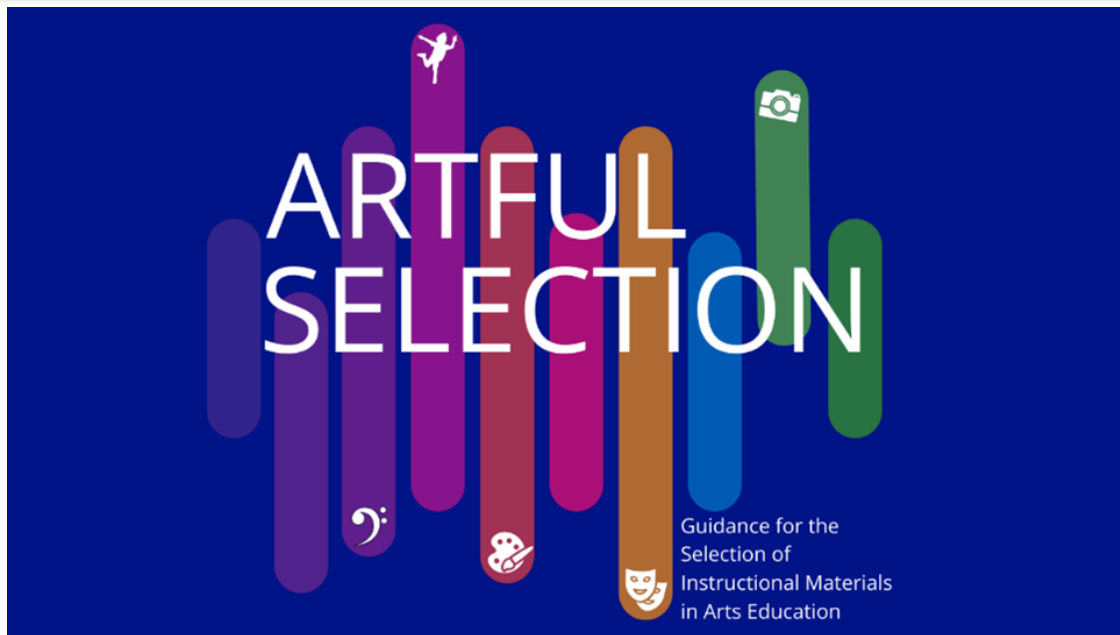
The arts play a critical role in children's lives, opening opportunities for them to create new connections between themselves, other people, and the constantly changing world around them. They also develop the ability to imagine and experience the world from multiple perspectives (Green, 2000) a function John Dewey identified as a foundational pillar of democracy.

Find out more about this project, which was a partnership between Project Zero, The Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Boston Public Schools.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## **-Art Selection: Guidance or Selecting High Quality Instructional Materials in Arts Education -**





Selecting instructional materials is one of the most critical decisions districts and teachers make. Finding instructional materials that align with Nebraska's Fine Arts Standards and meet the needs of your district can be overwhelming, particularly when considering the wide variety of available resources.

Working with a group of Nebraska arts educators, basing our work in TNTP's Opportunity Myth and Harvard Project Zero's Qualities of Quality, guidance has been crafted for the selection of high quality instructional materials for arts education. This guidance is available on the NDE Arts Education website. You can access the information now with the links below.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## The Arts Help to Create Healthier communities-

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The health benefits of the arts extend beyond schools and into communities! There is increasing recognition of how much the arts can benefit our health and wellbeing. Find out more in the CBS Sunday Morning video.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## -Federal Funding to Support Arts Education-

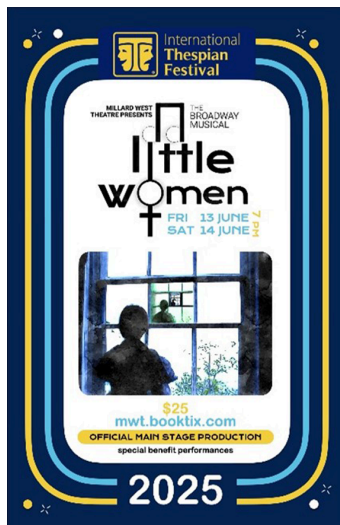
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Here is a resource of the National Arts Education Alliance regarding federal funding for the arts. It includes clear information about how all the Title money can be used for the arts.

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## -Millard West Theatre invited to the International Thespian Festival-



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Spring 2024 Musical Production of Little Women The Broadway Musical on the mainstage of the International Thespian Festival this June at the University of Indiana- Bloomington! They are one of eight productions invited out of all of Thespian Nation. Millard West High School in Omaha is excited to represent the excellence that Nebraska School Arts programs have to offer on an international stage.

To support their travels to the festival and see the show before they leave, get tickets to the Benefit Performances on June 13 and 14th at Millard West. You can make a donation on behalf of their production or buy tickets to the benefit shows at [mwt.booktix.com](http://mwt.booktix.com).

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**-Arts Education Projects throughout  
Nebraska-**

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What do annual music outreach programs in Winnebago, Arts Across Nebraska touring performances, and the Nebraska Theater Academy all have in common?

*They are all supported with a grant from the **Nebraska Arts Council** with funding from the **National Endowments for the Arts**.*

Each year a music educator leads from the Omaha Conservatory of Music leads classes at the St. Augustine Mission School in Winnebago, professional performing artists go on the road to rural communities across the state, courtesy of the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and 85 schools throughout the state participate in master classes, competitions, and an awards showcase, sponsored Omaha Performing Arts.

Nebraskans for the Arts is our statewide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts and arts education.

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