# NEBRASKANS FOR ARTS

#### Call us at 402.853.4461

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# June 2025 Arts Update Newsletter



Nebraska Passport Program is underway featuring cultural and creative districts.

Here is what we have included for you in this month's newsletter:

- Advocacy at the Federal Level
- Call to Action
- Welcome new NFTA Board of Directors
- NebraskARTS Award Applications are Open
- Thank you NFTA Members and Donors
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!

## **Advocacy at the Federal Level**



NFTA members who are also NMEA Members Speak Up for Music and Arts Education in Washington D.C. Nebraskans for the Arts Executive Director Lance Nielsen attended the National Association for Music Education Hill Day in June.

Along with Representatives of the Nebraska Music Education Association and college students from UNO and Doane University, the Nebraska Advocacy Team attended the Nebraska Breakfast, and we had individual meetings with each office. Our Legislative Asks focused on building



support for the Arts Education for All Act, and Arts Education funding (ESSA).

In addition, NFTA had private meetings specifically regarding NEA and NEH funding and grant rescissions, and requesting support for NEA and NEH in FY26 Appropriations.

#### GOOD NEWS:

Congressman Flood submitted his FY25 requests for NEA and NEH as one of his top ten requests.

Congressman Bacon is a co-sponsor for the Arts Education for All Act and signed on to a *Dear Colleague Letter* to restore NEA and NEH grant cuts.



Meetings with Senators, Congressmen, and Representatives



NFTA Advocating and telling the story of the importance of the arts for Nebraskans.



# **Take Action to Protect Arts Funding**





Federal support for arts and culture is changing quickly, and we need a strong, united response. To help you stay informed and take action, please visit the **NFTA and Arts Action Fund Action Center**.

A series of Markup Hearings for FY26 Appropriations and the continuing resolution for FY25 is currently happening into next month. The NEA and NEH — along with a range of other cultural institutions such as the Smithsonian, the National Gallery, and the Kennedy Center — fall under the jurisdiction of the **Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee**. Senator Fischer serves on this committee.

Please keep your emails and calls going!

Take Action

### Welcome new members of the NFTA Board of Directors

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Nebraskans for the Arts Board of Directors. Our new members represent many facets of arts backgrounds and careers.

- Bronwyn Bahr, Special Projects Administator, Omaha Performing Arts
- John Paul, Community Liaison Manager, Josyln Castle and Castle & Cathedral Creative District
- Lorinda Rice, Lincoln Public Schools Visual Art Curriculum Specialist
- Heather Stahr, Music Educator and Counselor, McCool Junction Public Schools
- Kara Weander-Gaster, Director of Norfolk River Point Creative District
- Mel Voorhis, Associate Artistic Director, Beatrice Community Players

For a complete list of the NFTA Board of Directors, please visit the NFTA Website.

#### 2025-26 NebraskARTS Award Applications



Deadline: October 17, 2025 Winners Announced: December 2025 Scan QR code or click

link to access the application form.

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 17, 2025, and the two recipients for 2025-26 will be notified in December 2025.

The application process has been updated. The new application is now available on the NFTA Website.

## Benefits of being a member of Nebraskans for the Arts

**THANK YOU** to all of our current members of Nebraskans for the Arts. NFTA membership has increased by 18% this past fiscal year. We value your membership and donations to NFTA. Your support is helping us expand our capacity to advocate for arts education, artists, 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 starting in July)
- Reduced registration fee for Arts Advocacy Day.
- Advocacy support and a voice at the state and federal levels.

# **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!



#### Nebraska Arts Action Fund

Established in 2011, this small 501(c)(4) serves as an affiliated organization to the Nebraskans for the Arts. The Nebraska Arts Action Fund's goal is to engage citizens in education and advocacy to support the arts. We want to ensure that public policies are arts-friendly and that public and private resources are maximized.

We encourage you to donate to NAAF. Donors to the Nebraska Arts Action Fund help build our capacity to advocate for the arts. Funds will support an arts lobbyist, get-out-to-vote events, candidate surveys, and exploring research supporting pro-arts legislation that goes beyond what a 501(c)(3) organization is allowed to do. Consider donating today!

#### Read more about the Nebraska Arts Action Fund

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