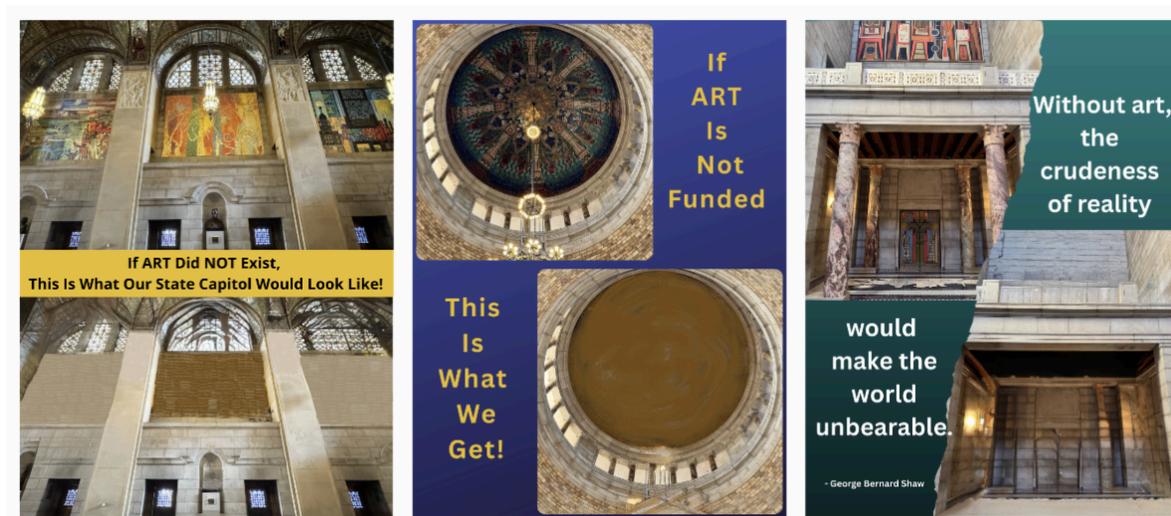


February 2026 Arts Advocacy Update Newsletter



Nebraskans for the Arts (NFTA) is your arts advocacy organization.

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

- ACT Now to Protect the NCE
- Advocacy at the State and Federal Level
- Nebraska Arts Action Center
- Arts and Culture Day 2026 Recap
- America 250
- Thanks to our sponsors
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!

ACT NOW: PROTECT THE FUTURE!



NEBRASKA
CULTURAL
ENDOWMENT

Protect Nebraska's
Cultural Preservation
Endowment Fund

Established in 1998, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment is the first and only public-private cultural trust in the nation built to support and sustain the arts and humanities. Through this visionary fund, all private donations are matched by the State of Nebraska, contributing to the cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, and quality of life for every community

across the state. **The future of the NCE Match Fund (CPEF) is in jeopardy.**

Governor Pillen presented his budget, and in it, he proposed:

- Ending the match transfers and the existing \$15M of match funds in CPEF (the endowment fund managed by the State Investment Council), reallocating them to the general fund (essentially, they would take the funds back).
- In 2026 and each following year, instead of the \$1 million match transfer to CPEF (which would no longer exist) and distribution of earnings, the Governor is recommending a \$600,000 appropriation to essentially replace the earnings. There is no guarantee of this appropriation after 2026.
- The private fund remains safe, but it is the match fund (CPEF) managed by the State Investment Council that is at risk

Nebraska Cultural Endowment Board and Nebraskans for the Arts OPPOSES LB1072, which recommends terminating the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund (CPEF), and we call on our advocates to contact members of the Appropriations Committee and their State Senator.

We Need Your Help!

✔ WRITTEN COMMENTS TO LB1071 ARTS AGENCY HEARING BEFORE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11 at 8:00 a.m

If you submitted comments for LB1072, we ask that you submit comments AGAIN for the Arts Council, Agency 69 Hearing. NCE will have selected testifiers to testify in person. YOUR written voice is important in expressing our concerns regarding the CPEF. All Senators will have the opportunity to read these comments if this moves forward. TELL YOUR STORY of why the NCE is important to Nebraska!

CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

✔ Email or send a letter to a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

[Sen. Robert Clements, Chairperson](#)

[Sen. Christy Armendariz, Vice Chairperson](#)

[Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh](#)

[Sen. Myron Dorn](#)

[Sen. Robert Dover](#)

[Sen. Loren Lippincott](#)

[Sen. Jason Prokop](#)

[Sen. Ashlei Spivey](#)

[Sen. Paul Strommen](#)

Submit Online Comments by 8:00 a.m. Wed. Feb. 11

Advocacy at the State and Federal Level



FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Good News!

The National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities received level funding of \$207 Million for FY26.

Appropriations requests will begin soon for the FY27 Budget. NFTA will help submit for arts funding recommendations to our elected officials, and we will partner with the Americans for the Arts in advocating for increased funding.

STATE ADVOCACY

The Nebraska Legislature is in its short session, with possible impacts that would be detrimental to arts and culture.

NFTA, along with NCE, NAC, and HN, will collaborate on our advocacy efforts throughout the rest of the spring with Arts Council and Cultural Endowment Funding. Stay informed by following the NFTA Advocacy Network Action Center.

We are also asking for **support of LB778**, which would give municipalities that partner with a certified creative district preference when awarding grants under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028.

Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network and Arts Action Center

NFTA and the Nebraska Arts Action Fund use **Quorum** as our legislative tracking system and action center.

We want you to be a part of our Nebraska Arts Advocacy Network.

Stay informed about advocacy updates from NFTA. We'll notify you immediately of updates and action alerts.

Watch the short video to learn what resources you have available and what you can do to

help us stay connected in our advocacy work.

Go to the NFTA Arts Action Center and get involved

Together, we CAN make a difference!

Arts and Culture Day at the State Capitol

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ADVOCATES THAT ATTENDED!

Many great meetings and networking with our State Senators occurred, and we created a "buzz of excitement" about the arts in the halls of the State Capitol.



America 250 Celebrations



Watch the recording of NAC's official kickoff for America 250, presented during Arts and Culture Day, featuring Nebraska State Poet Jewel Rodgers with a new, original poem!

In 2026, we celebrate the United States Semiquincentennial.

Celebrate Nebraska's cultural heritage by participating in many of the America 250 celebrations that are being planned. Being a part of this moment positions you at the heart of statewide cultural planning while honoring the artists and educators who shape Nebraska's story.

To learn more about upcoming America 250 events, visit the:

[Nebraska Arts Council America 250 Website.](#)



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



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We appreciate the support of the following Arts Organizations
for their contribution to Arts and Culture Day



Benefits of being a member of Nebraskans for the Arts

THANK YOU to all of our current members of Nebraskans for the Arts.

If you are not a member, we encourage you to become a part of a network of arts advocates. 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.

Individual memberships start at \$25/year.
BSG / ASE Grant Winners and Creative Districts are encouraged to join.

Our work is more important now than ever. Be a part of our mission.

JOIN NFTA



Nebraskans for the Arts

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