



Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
4:00 – 5:30 pm

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5070009041?omn=84323655566>

Meeting ID: 507 000 9041

Please read prior to the meeting:

NFTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (April 14, 2026)

Codified Online Votes

Financial Report and Dashboard for August 2026

Executive Director Report

Coffee, Listen, and Learn Recap

Read, review and provide feedback on NFTA Strategic Plan

By the end of the meeting, we need to accomplish:

- ☐ Approve Consent Agenda
- ☐ Discuss Mid-America Arts Alliance Grant to Arts Action Fund/Lobbyist
- ☐ Discuss Arts and Culture Day 2027
- ☐ Discuss and provide feedback on Strategic Plan - Step 1

Meeting Call to Order by Danielle Laurion, Board President

Introductions - *Your name and what you do. (3 minutes)*

CONSENT AGENDA (2 minutes) (*Action Item*)

(Board members will read attached documents prior to the meeting. If there is any item that a board member feels needs discussion, they can request to move that item to the regular agenda. If none, one motion to accept all items under consent will be entertained)

- ☐ Minutes from April 14, 2025 Board of Directors meeting
- ☐ Codify Email Votes from this summer
 - New Board Members
 - Executive Board

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Report (5 Minutes)

- ☐ Treasurer's report (*Informational*)

Executive Director's Report (5 minutes)

Federal Visits, Highlight key summer activities

Summer and Fall Advocacy Efforts (10 Minutes)

- ☐ [NFTA Coffee, Listen and Learn Recap](#)
- ☐ [Nebraska Arts Action Fund Website](#) - [Candidate Surveys](#)
- ☐ [Policy Briefs](#) based on Gubernatorial Candidate Agendas
- ☐ Meet and Greet sponsored by NAAF (Lynne Walz, Chris Backemeyer, Mike Flood)

Updates from the Nebraska Arts Council (5 Minutes)

- ☐ NAC ED gives an update on NAC activities and program, Mike Markey (*Informational*)

Updates from the NDE Fine Arts Department (5 Minutes)

- ☐ Update given by NDE Arts Education Specialist, Natalie Chandler (*Informational*)

Update from Arts Education Committee (5 Minutes)

- ☐ [American 250 “Sense of Belonging” Lesson Plans](#)

NEW BUSINESS

Mid-America Arts Alliance Grant (5 minutes)

- ☐ Board discussions/questions (*Informational*)
 - Collaboration of NAAF and NFTA
 - Target areas of advocacy and lobbying activities

Arts and Culture Day(s) 2027 (10 Minutes)

- ☐ Board Discussion (*Informational*)
 - Schedule
 - Evening Reception / Venues
 - Session Topics
 - Arts Advocacy Award! (Possible Action Item)**

NFTA Strategic Plan (10 Minutes)

- ☐ Begin this work this year for the next 3 years
- ☐ Review Mission, Vision, Purpose

- ☐ **Executive Director Annual Review - Danielle Laurion**

NFTA Committees (15 minutes)

- ☐ Breakout rooms
 - Education - Lorinda Rice
 - Legislative - Matt Boring
 - Membership/Development - Kara Weander-Gaster

☐ **Upcoming Events**

Dr. N out of the office Sept. 9-10
NebraskARTS Award Applications Due by Fri. Oct. 16
NATA State Conference in Kearney, Oct. 8-10
NEA Chair, Mary Ann Carter, Creative District Meeting, Oct 21-22
NCE Board meeting in Red Cloud, NE, Oct. 30
CSC Convene in Raleigh, NC Nov. 11-13

Issues Awareness from Board Members

- ☐ Items from the Board
- ☐ NFTA Logo Wear (if anyone is interested, contact Lance)

2026-27 Board Meeting Dates:

Tues. Nov. 17, 2026	4:00 p.m.	Zoom
Mon. Feb. 1, 2027	4:00 p.m.	In person in Lincoln (followed by Senator Reception)
Wed. Feb. 2, 2027	All Day	Arts and Culture Day at the State Capitol
Tues. April 6, 2027	4:00 p.m.	Zoom



NFTA Meeting Minutes

Date April 14, 2026

Place Via Zoom

Board Members Present:

Steve Barth, President, Danielle Laurion, Prez elect, VP of Arts Education (Zoom), Kara Weander-Gaster, VP of Marketing, Lance Nielsen, Executive Director, Judy Bush, Secretary, Lorinda Rice, Bronwyn Bahr, Mel Voorhis, Jason Fisher, Heather Stahr, Mike Markey, Ex-officio Nebraska Arts Council

Guest: Garret Splinter, intern

Absent: Matt Boring, Nancy Engen-Wedin, Darrel Huenergardt, Cassie Ehrenberg, Daniel Martinez, Nathan Murray, John Paul

Agenda

Call to Order by Steve Barth at 4:05 pm

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Danielle Laurion, 2nd by Mel Voorhis. Motion passed

Financial Report (Lance Nielsen)

FY 26-27 Budget

The executive committee made a motion to approve the FY26-27 budget. 2nd by Lorinda Rice. Motion passed

A motion was made by Danielle Laurion to create a committee to work with the executive director to research HRAs. 2nd by Bronwyn Bahr. Motion passed.

Executive Director Report (Lance Nielsen)

The executive director introduced Intern Garret Splinter who informed the board of his work updating tax files for NFTA.

Nebraska Arts Council report (Mike Markey)

Mike shared information concerning state and federal funding and the passage of LB778. Updates on America 250, the sculpture project and additional public events and tours. Board member Anne Alston has retired and will have a replacement soon. Poetry Out Loud will happen at the end of April.

Legislative Committee (Lance Nielsen for Matt Boring)

- Information concerning the cultural endowment
- Talk of extending term limits in the legislature
- Planning for the election year and the arts action fund
- Thanked the board for participating in appropriations requests
- AFTA Fly-in to address NEA, NEH and Arts education funding - April 20-22

Membership and Development Committee (Kara Weander- Gastor)

Memberships are on track to meet our goals for this year
Working on how to look at memberships vs sponsorships
Maybe create a small group to discuss.

Education Committee (Danielle Laurion)

Continuing curriculum work for all arts disciplines focused on belonging through the arts for America 250. This project should wrap up in May with the goal to have this available for teachers to present next school year 26-27.

OLD BUSINESS

Arts and Culture Day follow up

Attendance sign up was 110 with 100 actually attending. Dates are on the Legislature social calendar for 2027. Mon Feb. 1 for the reception night and Tues. Feb. 2 for Arts and Culture Day at the Capitol. Please provide ideas for next year to the Executive Director so we can do some early planning for this event.

America 250 Commission Project Update

Received a donation from Dietze Music to help with the commission of a piece written for community bands in Nebraska by composer Nolan Schmit. Lincoln Community Band will perform the piece on May 18 in Kimball Hall Recital Hall at UNL.
Around 15 community bands across the state will perform this piece over the summer and fall. Board members are encouraged to attend one of those performances.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussions and input concerning:

- President Elect Danielle Laurion's term
- Strategic Plan
- Can we get together for a ½ day board retreat this summer? The board indicated this would be a good idea.
- Board nominations and elections
- NFTA Listen and Learn policy meeting
- Advocacy for summer and fall
- Election year communication
- Meetings with senators and candidates - educate them about NAC and NCE

Upcoming board items

Watch for emails over summer for meeting dates for FY 26-27

Vote for new NFTA board members in June.

Call to Adjourn by Steve Barth at 5:21 pm

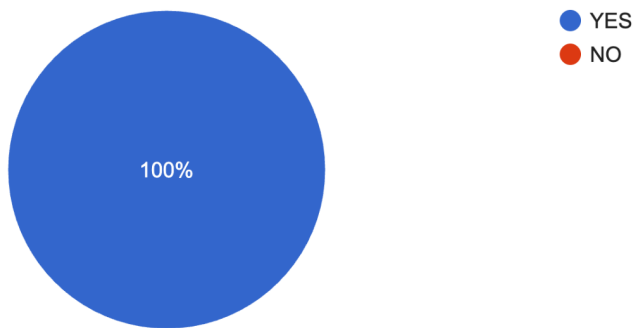
Respectfully submitted,

Judy Bush, Secretary

26-27 Board of Directors Online Vote (10 yes, 0 No, 6 absent from voting)

I vote to accept the slate of nominees for the NFTA Board of Directors.

10 responses

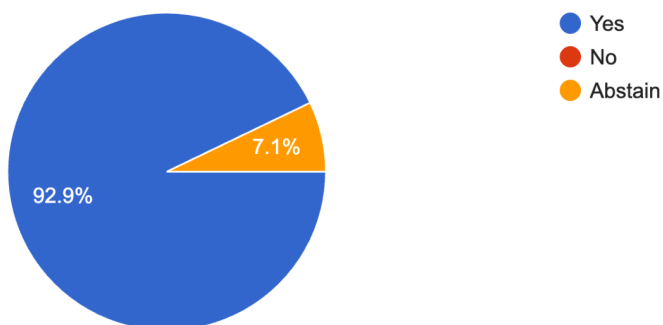


Each board member was voted to the board unanimously.

Executive Officers Vote (13 yes, 1 Abstain, 5 absent from voting)

I approve the members of the executive committee for the 26-27 Fiscal Year. President - Danielle Laurion Past President - Steve Barth Secretary - ...rinda Rice VP of Membership - Kara Weander-Gaster

14 responses



2026-27 NFTA Budget

Nebraskans for the Arts					
Actual vs. Budget for FY26-27					
Year To Date July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027					
INCOME		Actual 7.1.2025- 8.31.2026	Budget 26-27	Variance	Notes
4000 GRANTS					
4010	NAC Dev. Operations Grant	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ (30,000.00)	
4020	NAC Arts Project Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4050	Sherwood Foundation Grant	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)	Awarded (will deposit later this fall)
4060	Cooper Foundation Grant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
4070	M-AAA annual support grant	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)	Receiving Grant but to NAAF
4080	Grant Awards (Foundations)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 63,000.00	\$ (53,000.00)	
4100 CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT INCOME					
4110	NAC POL and Poetry Write Now Contract	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	
4120	NAC Misc. Grant Contracts	\$ 295.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,705.00)	(additional \$2450 will arrive soon)
4130	CSC travel grant	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	
4140	AFTA contribution for advocacy captain	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 295.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ (8,205.00)	
4200 MEMBERSHIP INCOME					
4210	2026-27 membership income	\$ 1,266.09	\$ 17,000.00	\$ (15,733.91)	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP INCOME		\$ 1,266.09	\$ 17,000.00	\$ (15,733.91)	
4300 ARTS AND CULTURE DAY NCOME					
4310	Registrations: 100 attendees @ 25, \$30, \$40	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	
4320	Contributions (NCE/NAC)	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	
TOTAL ADVOCACY DAY INCOME		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)	
4400 SPONSORSHIPS					
4410	Business Sponsors	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP INCOME		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)	
4500 OTHER INCOME					
4510	Donated Campaigns (Giving Tuesday, Arts Ed)	\$ 236.25	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (1,163.75)	
4520	Registration Fees (misc. workshops)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4550	Uncategorized / Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		\$ 236.25	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (1,163.75)	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 11,797.34	\$ 95,900.00	\$ (84,102.66)	
EXPENSE				Variance	Notes
6000 STAFF EXPENSES					
6010	Executive Director	\$ 8,240.00	\$ 49,440.00	\$ (41,200.00)	
6015	Payroll expenses	\$ 110.00	\$ 700.00	\$ (590.00)	
6020	Payroll taxes	\$ 630.36	\$ 3,700.00	\$ (3,069.64)	
6030	HRA Account	\$ 658.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (3,342.00)	Salusion - QSEHRA
6040	ED Cell phone reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	
6050	Property and Liability Insurance	\$ 301.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,699.00)	
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES		\$ 9,939.36	\$ 60,840.00	\$ (50,900.64)	
6100 TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES					
6110	Conference Fees	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)	
6120	Travel Expenses Flight / Prking	\$ 374.33	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (625.67)	
6130	Board and Lodging	\$ 186.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (813.23)	
6140	Local travel, mileage	\$ 691.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (308.40)	
6150	Meals	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	
TOTAL TRAVEL		\$ 1,252.70	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,247.30)	
6200 BOARD EXPENSES					
6210	Hospitality	\$ 13.12	\$ 300.00	\$ (286.88)	
6220	Mileage		\$ -	\$ -	
6230	Space Rental		\$ -	\$ -	
6240	Conference Calls		\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL BOARD EXPENSES		\$ 13.12	\$ 300.00	\$ (286.88)	
6500 CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT					
6510	Professional Fees and Dues				

2026-27 NFTA Budget

	6511	Americans for the Arts	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	
	6512	Creative States Coalition	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	
	6513	Nonprofit Assoc. of Midlands \$100	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	
	6514	Nebraska Civic Engagement Table \$25	\$ -		\$ -	
	6515	Foundry Intern program	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -	
	6516	Nebraska Arts Action Fund Yearly Contribution	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	
		<i>Total Prof. Fees</i>	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ (600.00)	
6530		Misc. Contracts				
	6531	Advocacy Contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	6532	NAC Misc. Grant Contracts	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 450.00	ASL Interpreter for State Arts Conference (will receive a grant)
	6533	Workshop Clinicians	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	
	6535	Event Contractor (Photographer / planner)	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ (150.00)	
		<i>Total Misc. Contracts</i>	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ (700.00)	
6540		Accounting Services		\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	
6550		Poetry Out Loud and Write Now				
	6551	POL State Finals (awards/supplies/stipents)	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	
	6552	Poetry Out Loud / Write Now Supplies	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	
	6553	Poetry Write Now Teaching Artists	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	
		<i>Total POL</i>	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	
		TOTAL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ (7,800.00)	
7000		OFFICE EXPENDITURES				
	7010	Rent @ \$224 x 12	\$ 446.36	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (2,253.64)	
	7020	Internet	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ (120.00)	
	7040	Secretary of State filings	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	
7050		Web Communication Subscriptions			\$ -	
	7051	Quorum (AFTA contract)	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	
	7052	Constant Contact	\$ -	\$ 630.00	\$ (630.00)	
	7053	Zoom	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)	
	7054	BCom website services	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ (450.00)	
		<i>Total Web Subscriptions</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,980.00	\$ (1,980.00)	
		TOTAL OFFICE EXPENDITURES	\$ 446.36	\$ 4,850.00	\$ (4,403.64)	
7100		BANK AND CARD FEES				
	7110	Processing fee on memberships	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)	
	7120	Quicken Check Reprints	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	
	7130	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		TOTAL BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	
7200		OFFICE SUPPLIES				
	7210	Supplies	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	
	7220	Printing	\$ 372.68	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (627.32)	
7240		Managment Software	\$ -		\$ -	
	7241	Little Green Light	\$ -	\$ 500.00		
	7242	Quickbooks	\$ -	\$ 100.00		
	7243	Google Apps	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)	
	7244	Adobe	\$ -	\$ 200.00		
		<i>Total Management Software</i>	\$ -			
		TOTAL OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 372.68	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (2,627.32)	
7300		POSTAGE				
	7310	Stamps and postage	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	
	7320	PO Box Rental	\$ 236.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (14.00)	
		TOTAL POSTAGE	\$ 236.00	\$ 750.00	\$ (514.00)	
7500		PROGRAM EXPENSES				
	7510	Arts Advocacy Projects	\$ 483.65	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,516.35)	Coffee, Listen and Learn Expenses
	7520	NebraskaARTS Awards	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ (600.00)	
	7530	Arts and Culture Day expenses	\$ 300.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (6,200.00)	Deposit for A&C Day
	7540	Strategic Planning Projects	\$ -	\$ 1,460.00	\$ (1,460.00)	
	7550	Workshops or Webinars	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ (800.00)	
		TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ 783.65	\$ 11,360.00	\$ (10,576.35)	
8000		MISC. EXPENSES				
	8110	Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		TOTAL MISC. EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 16,243.87	\$ 95,900.00	\$ (79,656.13)	
		NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ (4,446.53)	\$ -	\$ (4,446.53)	



Snapshot of Activities

FY26-27 (August 2026)

Financial Summary

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Grants	\$ 63,000	\$ 10,000.00
Contractual Agreements	\$ 8,500	\$ 295.00
Membership / Sponsorship Du	\$ 17,000	\$ 1,266.09
Arts And Culture Day	\$ 3,000	\$ - .00
Sponsorships	\$ 3,000	\$ - .00
Other Income	\$ 1,400	\$ 236.25
Total Income	\$ 95,900	\$ 11,797.34
<u>Expense</u>		
Admin. Director Expenses	\$ 60,840	\$ 9,939.36
Travel Expenses	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,252.70
Board Expenses	\$ 300	\$ 13.12
Contractual Agreement	\$ 13,000	\$ 3,200.00
Office Expenditures	\$ 4,850	\$ 446.36
Bank and Card Fees	\$ 300	\$ - .00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 372.68
Postage	\$ 750	\$ 236.00
Program Expenses	\$ 9,360	\$ 783.65
Uncategorized Expenses	\$ -	\$ - .00
Total Expense	\$ 95,900	\$ 16,243.87
	\$ -	\$ (4,446.53)

Memberships

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Individual	60	9	51
Friend	25	3	27
Sponsor	15	1	21
Patron	10	2	11
Benefactor	3	0	4
BSG Org.	32	0	35
ASE Org.	15	0	9
Organization/Associ	5	0	6
Creative Districts	10	2	8
Donations / Student	5	0	3
Total	180	17	175

Social Media

	7/31/26	8/31/26	+/-
Facebook (Followers)	3,994	4,044	1%
X -Twitter (Followers)	865	866	0%
Instagram (Followers)	1077	1093	1%
LinkedLN (Connections)	181	183	1%
Threads (Followers)	192	193	1%

Account Balances -

Checking Account	7/31/26	\$ 51,992.45
	8/31/26	\$ 50,326.11
Action Fund	7/31/26	\$ 1,338.48

Nebraskans for the Arts (including some Neb. Arts Action Fund)

Executive Director Report

September 8, 2026

1. Updates since April

- A. Posted election process for new board members to NFTA
- B. Submitted to U.S. Senators and Congressmen on FY27 Appropriations Requests. Thank you to NFTA board members who assisted in this process.
- C. Finished digitizing past legal documents at the conclusion of our spring intern time - May. All items have been properly filed or removed and destroyed.
- D. Developed NFTA Annual Report for FY25-26.
- E. Updating and sending lapsed memberships in Little Green Light and updating for 26-27 membership drive.
- F. Worked with NCE in developing an advocacy plan for saving the Cultural Endowment Fund - Roll out is the first week of September.
- G. Attended and Facilitated sessions at AFTACON - Albuquerque New Mexico - June
- H. Presented at the Civic Nebraska State of Civic Engagement Conference in May
- I. Presented at the NAFME Hill Day on June 22
- J. Conducted an onboarding process with new members and review for old.
- K. Researched and established a QSEHRA process. This was implemented in July.
- L. Reconciled and updated QuickBooks with new FY26-27 Budget.
- M. Worked on and submitted Grants for Cooper Foundation, Sherwood Foundation and Weitz Family Foundation
- N. Materials submitted for yearly IRS filing process to Grafton Associates
- O. Met with NAM Financial Services. We will use their services with questions and maybe quarterly reviews of our books. This is in addition to what Grafton Associates provides us.
- P. Developed along with my work with Arts Action Fund an Arts Survey, website, and election education materials.
- Q. Conducted 5 Coffee, Listen and Learn Sessions across the state (Columbus, Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Scottsbluff)
- R. Presented at NAC Creative District Assembly and State Arts Conference in Kearney
- S. Posted Arts Education America 250 Lesson Plans - beginning the promotion process of this site.

2. Social Media

- A. Sent three "Arts Advocate" newsletters and two NFTA Update Newsletter
- B. Two new Advocacy Blogs posted
- C. Basic social media postings throughout the summer. A week-long promotion of arts in the America 250 History leading up to July 4.
- D. Attended AFTA webinars in preparing for Arts Vote 2026 and Arts Education Week social media plans

3. Meetings / Events

- A. Attended the Nebraska Cultural Endowment Meeting May 15 - Omaha
- B. Attended the Nebraska Arts Council Meeting June 9 - Virtually
- C. Attended some of the NAC I80 Sculpture Garden Rededication events.
- D. Met with Helped host along with President Laurion a NFTA Board Retreat - July 10
- E. Attended AEDP Quarterly Meeting - July 29
- F. NMEA Committee Meeting reviewing their Hill Day - July 14
- G. Arts Education Partnership Meeting, August 19
- H. The Executive Committee met August 25 to develop agenda and focus areas for the year
- I. Creative States Coalition Monthly Meeting (Monthly)
- J. Nonprofit Associations of Midland - weekly meetings (I don't attend all of them)
- K. Mid-America Arts Alliance Monthly Meeting (Monthly)
- L. Americans for the Arts Advocacy Captain Meeting (Monthly)
- M. Weekly Nebraska Engagement Table Federal Updates (Weekly on Tuesdays)

4. Next Steps

- A. Sept 13-19 is National Arts in Education Week.
- B. Get materials for NATA and NMEA conferences coming up.
- C. Work on Mid-America Lobbying Support Grant and how to best utilize those funds with the NAAF Board. This will have a positive impact on NFTA.

Upcoming:

Sept. 16	Lynne Walz Meet & Greet (NAAF)
Sept. 23	Chris Backemeyer Meet & Greet (NAAF)
Sept. 28-Oct. 1	AFTA Fly-in to Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.
Oct. 22	NEA Mary Ann Carter and Rep. Mike Flood Arts Grant Gathering
Oct. 29-30	NCE Meeting in Red Cloud
Nov. 11-13	Attending CSC Convening in Raleigh, North Carolina

NEBRASKANS
FOR THE
ARTS

Coffee
Listen & Learn

MAIN THEMES

WORD WALL

funding **community** **collaboration**
arts education **access** **Nebraska** **grants** **youth**
public art **healing** **mental health** **creative districts** **advocacy**
policy **libraries** **partnerships** **sustainability** **rural** **inclusivity** **brain drain**
data **murals** **storytelling** **wellness** **cultural endowment** **small towns** **tourism**
exposure **legacy** **networking** **diversity** **AI concerns** **volunteers**

IDEAS AND COMMENTS PROVIDED FROM PARTICIPANTS

DREAMS & VISION	CHALLENGES & BARRIERS	POLICY IDEAS & SOLUTIONS
Community Engagement Outreach	Funding for new ideas/opportunities	Think Sustainability
Opportunities for NEW local artists to have works shown/displayed	Not knowing how to receive \$\$	Ask this question - What is our legacy and what do we want our legacy to be?
After school arts opportunities	Create A.I. Free Zones for Art	Look and fosters ways for collaboration
Public ARTS - Music, Visual, Natural Landscape Arts w/ Vegetation	Biggest challenge facing our culture is Hyper-Consumerism	
Well funded Creative Districts with visible public art projects	How do we "ask"	Collaboration - Cross Sector/Political - Communication
Central location of a way to have artists and art galleries and event spaces, for businesses to know how to find artists a list of all the artists with their contact information.	Collecting data to help tell our stories	Building the creative economy by leveraging the regional expense of the Nebraska Creative Districts
Have tours to outstate galleries and performance events.	Lack of operating grants	The healing aspects of art were well documented and there should be more easy to expand on this. For example, the April Sampson Cancer Center has visitors to their garden and their facility for the ART.
Be sharing community Collaboration between organizations Open minded opportunities	Lack of public awareness of all the opportunities to attend art shows, exhibits, etc. Reply on social media which doesn't reach enough of the public	Build partnerships - Neb. Travel, State Recreation Centers, Humanity Groups, Hospitality, Municipalities
	Financial support - granting agency for arts groups (for profit and nonprofit)	Include "art" thinking in all policies - know the indirect connections of the arts on business perspectives.
A thriving culture sector would be casting a wide net statewide - connect different communities and be able to provide	Lack of corporate donations to musical groups.	Long term investments for local artists that can help fund their cost of living and art projects.

more access to underserved areas and demographics		
		Bring art to immigrant communities
Network or a trail leading to all communities (app?)	Social Media Exposure Everyone wants funding to hire work	Let's start a Trail of Art Communities
It would be great for all humans could participate in creating and enjoying arts, not just those who can afford it.	Funding challenges - separation of "arts" and "business"	Policy won't change until we start electing individuals who value art - not just art but our collective human experience and humanity.
Every community would be able to realize its dreams of a thriving cultural creative sections that adds to its quality of life and keeps people of all ages in Nebraska. Everyone would have a pathway to tapping their creativity and artistic interests.	Unnecessary politicization of arts, culture, humanities, and the grave threats to all public funding of the culture sector at state and federal levels.	Building allies in Congress, the legislative and even elected officials.
Thriving sector - First Fridays - we'll attend - support local government grants to local artists. Opportunities - kids art education and activities more shows and markets for artists Landscape - it should look diverse	Lack of knowledge of opportunities We are in silos, how do we break this down.	Public Education is of vital importance for the cultural sector to our communities. Invest in longitudinal studies, data collection. Art as healing
Arts to have while fighting policies Arts education should strive to help more opportunities in Western Nebraska and Lincoln is the the city that can achieve this. An app that notifies artist/people to learn about all arts opportunities in Lincoln	Government Misinformation > voting & advocacy All art to be reached - outreach to all	Use the arts for doctors Big Picture - Make Arts more important to the city and homes Open eyes - gain support Arts education is our vehicle.
More art in public libraries	Funding is hard to get for everyone	Investments in Local Artists Ways to show art in empty storefronts
Arts education in every grade and integrated into curriculum so that it is not a	Arts not integrated into the comprehensive strategic planning of organizations or	Municipal funding through community organizations

separate “Extra Curricular” thing, but a core piece of learning	municipalities.	Arts panels to help with drafting policy.
Public awareness campaign for arts and health leader - Nebraska becomes a national leader in social prescribing and arts & health	Support and collaboration between arts and humanities organizations as funding arts continue More advocacy to school boards on the impact of learning in the arts.	Neuroarts and social prescribing Promotion of Rule 24 Speech and Theatre
Arts as wellness / health- quality of life	Difficulty measuring impact - long term impact	Focus on sustainability
Multi-generational - get all ages involved	Funding always	
Partnering with other nonprofits and arts organizations - share assets	Foundation priorities shifting away from arts	Portion of taxes dedicated to the arts
Inclusivity by immigrant communities, racial justice	So much to do stretching the money as not all arts groups are large enough for the big grant.	Openness to all
Thriving arts to me - exposure and involvement for everyone child K-12 More opportunities for adult arts education	Money is the barrier	Effect of arts on aging healing neurological cancer patients baseline health and mental health
Opportunities like this to share in roundtables	Lack of diversity in funding	National and Federal support of the arts
Getting creative in funding asks - connect through public funding not previously applied for	Loss of head start funding Loss of funding within K-12 schools	Understanding the Neb. Cultural Endowment
Encouraging youth and young professionals to enter our sector and stay in Nebraska More cross collaborations between creative districts Access to more degrees in the arts and culture sectors	Arts education access for students Brain and Creative Drain - leaving Nebraska for bigger cities like Chicago Job creation and professional growth for young professionals	Work on sustainability of arts and cultural jobs. Cross collaboration - database or ways to learn about all arts centers
Pipelines frm HS to University to Young Professionals	Talent Drain	Incentives for young professionals

Small business and young artist support Every region of the state would have a recognizable cultural I.D. or creative district		Integrate arts with health
Create a program for artists and businesses to market their art	Funding - PR	Community Building
Collaboration through the arts Opportunities for mentoring young artist professionals Having arts shows in the librarys	Studio space available for anyone	Tax breaks for commercial property owners to rent for artists
More connection between educators/students and practicing artists	Policies within the NE Correction facilities relating to hobbies. "Art from the Inside" is an annual exhibition in its 8th year - Lincoln and Omaha. The residents' access to supplies has become more limited in the last 3 years. This affects the mental health of those incarcerated and not yet receiving therapy.	More connections between businesses and artists STEM integrations to be STEAM in academics
Interdisciplinary Intergenerational programming Murals Sector (public art)	Transportation and Art Funding for micro grants Reach small towns with arts	Policies that are non-partisan and centered on the common good. Invest in our youth and elders.
Every neighborhood and small towns should have artistic aspect. Their parks reflecting art Artist Co-Ops Youth Fellowships A state level version of the WPA (works progress administration) artist programs in the 70s		An artist fellowship program to place artists storytellers in small communities.
Nebraska is not Provance, France but I would love to see more retreats to experience, learn and share from an artist expert.	Access to info on galleries (etc.) and how to connect and be a part of the art scene whether an artists or a lover of art/culture.	Use research to support our advocacy - Importance has been lost. Why and how does art, music, writing changes the brain
Visual art throughout the state and cities Space to expand and explore about non-traditional art	Funding of the arts One centralized organization Community Calendar	More accessible parking for downtown art (First Fridays - - Bus tours on First Fridays) Hospital art - Garden spaces

Art in libraries		Art Passport like the Nebraska Vineyard App
Artists from different mediums working together to build programming events for community to actively participate in open spaces - builds conversations about different subject matters Opportunity to educate people on the importance of art and show people other ways to learn, grow and create.	Money Support Time People understanding what the arts actually bring to a community	Finding individuals and foundations that have a desire to support and have a passion for it. Build and help people learn THEIR ROLE and not just rely on gov't.
Kids getting involved and their work being valued and fostered	Lack of expendable income for people to spend on tickets and tuition	Increased investment in programs that encourage artistic creation by adults and children
Collaboration with libraries, we are always looking for opportunities to highlight the arts - provide that connection with communities. Ownership and leadership for the youth in our state. They want to be have voice.	Funding for public libraries and public art Youth and children are often dismissed or ignored or even neglected by adults.	Partner with anyone and everyone!
Money for creative districts Collaboration and Consolidation	DEI Concerns Marketing Overlap of services	How do we get our personal stories told and shared, especially the impact in rural counties across Nebraska.
Supporting street musicians at fairs and markets Expanding what it means to be an artist? How do we create an artist driven society?	How do we expand the public's view and understanding of what ART really is?	Campaign to share arts and performing events across the state. Map of Nebraska with pinpoint stops - "Artist Roots Run Deep" (tie to the rivers on the Nebraska map)
Intergenerational Cross-pollination - visual arts tied to vocal/instrumental music, and theater - A DREAM Bring history to beautiful life (Salt Creek Mural Towers of History) Engaging retirees	How does the arts community communicate impact? We don't know WHO or WHAT to ask sometimes.	Workshops on therapeutic / creative interventions

More inclusion of diverse art making - new forms - along with existing art forms.	Funding for afterschool activities to engage the younger generation.	Build cross cultural partners Civic and Volunteer organization
Collaboration between organizations in communities	Finding volunteers for board and arts events. Having QUALITY candidates run for office	Concern of municipal equalization fund cuts to cities, affects cities general fund where libraries and parks get funded. This in turn affects the arts sector.
Access for all people A fundamental part of education On the forefront of solutions to wellness and mental health	Funding Lack of appreciation for the knowledge and expertise of skills Competing for students' opportunities within the school day (do they have opportunities in the arts like they used to?) A.I. generation - people w/o proper training being able to do the same jobs as people w/ training.	Work with area extension offices to expand reach Data gathering that supports the arts at the local level. Work on creating sustainable positions that support our educators.
Partnerships!	Governor Pillen's push to pull money from cities, libraries and cultural agencies. Fewer young people staying or moving away from small communities or the state. Brain Drain	Grant Policies leading to sustainability.
Thriving arts in our area would be full house at our performing arts events	Marketing in the digital age Hearing people are unaware of events, galleries or artists in our area.	
Nebraska Arts Byway - connect and communicate within communities. Work with Healthcare Impact Neb. Artists themes to collaborate w/ Legacy of the Plains	Volunteers not there City govt (and state) turmoil Funding - huge issue Distance and isolation Cost of advertising.	Keep the NCE
Reviving the creative district Community art - mural guide Incorporate the arts into more groups and	Education on the importance of arts in a community	Tourism needs to be a larger part of the art community.

activities by exposure		
		Fight Pillen on the Cultural Endowment Raid
A thriving arts and culture would have and emphasize the importance of support-monetarily for the work and time of artists/musicians/theater. Many times, minimum ages are even met. Public art and performances upcoming highlighted or shared	Exposure Political distractions	There is a lack of art teachers - they really need to open this up to professional artists.

NEBRASKANS
FOR THE
ARTS



NEBRASKA ARTS
— ACTION FUND —
ADVANCING THE ARTS

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



**2027 Arts and Culture
at the State Capitol
February 1-2, 2027**

Monday, Feb. 1

- Possible New Media event at 1:00 p.m., with NCE rolling out the Research Report, followed by a deep dive into the data (2-3 hours)
- Tour of Constellation Gallery
- NFTA Board Meeting
- Reception at Showstoppers: Senators, Key Arts Leaders and A&C Attendees invited (**Reserved**)

Tuesday, Feb. 2

- Breakfast at Capitol Cafeteria - gathering and meeting with Senators (**Reserved**)
- Capitol Lower Rotunda Reserved for 4 tables to showcase NAC, HN, NCE, and NFTA
- Hearing Room meeting - We may have a special guest from Nashville and the AFTA Arts Action Fund Initiative
- NMEA Noon Hour concert in the Rotunda
- Lunch and Sessions (roundtables again?) Scottish Rite Building - (**Reserved**)

**2027 Arts and Culture
at the State Capitol
February 1-2, 2027**

Strategic Planning 2027-2030

**NEBRASKANS
FOR
THE
ARTS**



Internal Process

01

Review Mission/Vision

September

02

SWOT Analysis / Initiatives

(could be separate meeting for 60 minutes)

October/November

03

Strategic Directions / Goals

(could be separate meeting for 60 minutes)

February/March

04

Final Review - Vote

April

Review Mission, Vision & Purpose



Read the next three slides and reflect on whether our current mission and vision still represents Nebraskans for the Arts.



This is the Purpose statement that is listed on our website.

Does this explain WHY the organization exists?

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

Representing arts organizations and individual members across the state, NFTA advises policy makers, elected officials, and community leaders on the importance of strong arts education in our schools, the economic impact of the arts in our communities, and the benefits of pro-arts policies for Nebraska.

Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type
Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type

Mission

Advancing the arts as essential to life and learning for all Nebraskans.

*Does the Mission outline **WHAT** the organization does for the arts in Nebraska? Short - easy to state?*

Type

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Type Comments into one of the white boxes.

Vision

WE BELIEVE:

Read and Reflect.

Do our vision statements provide WHERE we are going? A future thinking and direction to NFTA? Put comments on the next two slides.

1. All communities offer professional arts experiences, and every Nebraskan has the opportunity to be enriched by them.
2. The arts are part of every child's basic education. Every Nebraska school has a comprehensive and sequential arts program for all students taught by certified teachers.
3. The arts are perceived to be critical for a well-educated workforce and the state's economic prosperity. Nebraska's elected officials and business leaders invest public and private resources to support arts education and arts organizations.
4. Nebraska is known for its many cultural opportunities and for a vibrant and creative environment that nurtures the development of students, artists, and arts organizations.

Vision

Type Comments into the white boxes by each vision statement.

Vision Statement	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
All communities offer professional arts experiences, and every Nebraskan has the opportunity to be enriched by them.	Type	Type	Type	Type
The arts are part of every child's basic education. Every Nebraska school has a comprehensive and sequential arts program for all students taught by certified teachers.	Type	Type	Type	Type
The arts are perceived to be critical for a well-educated workforce and the state's economic prosperity. Nebraska's elected officials and business leaders invest public and private resources to support arts education and arts organizations.	Type	Type	Type	Type
Nebraska is known for its many cultural opportunities and for a vibrant and creative environment that nurtures the development of students, artists, and arts organizations.	Type	Type	Type	Type

Vision

Additional Comments if we run out of room on previous slide

Vision Statement	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
All communities offer professional arts experiences, and every Nebraskan has the opportunity to be enriched by them.	Type	Type	Type	Type
The arts are part of every child's basic education. Every Nebraska school has a comprehensive and sequential arts program for all students taught by certified teachers.	Type	Type	Type	Type
The arts are perceived to be critical for a well-educated workforce and the state's economic prosperity. Nebraska's elected officials and business leaders invest public and private resources to support arts education and arts organizations.	Type	Type	Type	Type
Nebraska is known for its many cultural opportunities and for a vibrant and creative environment that nurtures the development of students, artists, and arts organizations.	Type	Type	Type	Type

