

July 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 newsletter:

- NFTA Coffee, Listen, and Learn **(You are invited)**
- Advocacy Year-Round
- Election Year 2026
- NFTA 2026 Annual Report
- Save the Date - Arts and Culture Day 2027
- Join Nebraskans for the Arts Today!
- Thanks to our sponsors

NFTA invites you to attend

NEBRASKANS FOR THE ARTS *Coffee Listen & Learn*

Invites You To

Columbus - Mon. August 3, 10:00 am
Omaha - Thurs. August 6, 10:00 am
Scottsbluff - Mon. Aug. 10, 10:30 am
Lincoln - Thurs. August 13, 9:30 am
Kearney - Thurs. Sept. 3, TBD

ADVOCATE
NEBRASKA ARTS POLICY

COFFEE, LISTEN & LEARN

Nebraskans for the Arts wants to hear from you. We invite anyone to join one of five coffee meetings in August. This will be a one-hour gathering to share success stories in your arts sector, discuss the challenges, and explore whether there are any specific arts policies NFTA should try to explore and champion in the years to come.

Anyone can attend, and we invite you to sign up today.

Please register for a Coffee, Listen, & Learn session close to you.

Detailed information for each event will be emailed to people who register one week before each meeting.

Advocacy Year-Round



FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Advocacy is not just for when lawmakers are in session; it's a year-round commitment to building relationships, sharing the impact of the arts, and ensuring decision-makers understand why the arts matter. Strong public policy is built through ongoing conversations, not just when votes are being cast.

This summer, Nebraskans for the Arts continued that work by meeting with federal policymakers in Washington, D.C., and connecting with Nebraska state senators across the state.

Three specific Federal policy discussions included:

1) The **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** has proposed significant changes to how federal grants are reviewed and administered. If adopted, the new rules would expand executive oversight of grant awards, increase compliance requirements for recipients, and give political appointees a greater role in grant approval and termination decisions. Arts organizations, educators, and nonprofit leaders are closely monitoring these proposed regulations because they could drastically affect access to funding for various nonprofits.

2) The recently enacted **One Big Beautiful Bill** also includes a **"Do No Harm" provision** affecting higher education programs. While implementation details are still emerging, the provision may influence how colleges and universities design academic programs and access certain federal workforce and education funding. Institutions with arts, humanities, music, theater, and visual arts programs are evaluating how these changes could affect federal funding for certain degree programs, career preparation, workforce partnerships, and student opportunities.

3) At the same time, Congress continues to debate **federal appropriations for arts education and cultural agencies**, making advocacy for the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, arts education, and other federal investments more important than ever.

Nebraskans for the Arts will continue working with our federal delegation and national partners to ensure the arts remain an essential part of these policy conversations.

This is an election year, and both NFTA and the Nebraska Arts Action Fund, collaborating with our national partners, Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund, will provide education on candidates running in federal, state, and local races.

National Voter Registration Day is September 15, 2026.

Encourage and remind people in your circle of influence to register to vote in the upcoming general election.

Learn and research the candidates running for office. If you have a state legislative race in your district, reach out to all candidates and ask to meet each candidate for coffee. Begin to build those relationships NOW!



[Go to the Election Center](#)

Nebraska Arts Action Fund will provide more information about candidates and about election reminders throughout the fall.

NFTA 2026 Annual Report



Our 2025–2026 Annual Report is now available!

Discover how Nebraskans for the Arts advanced arts advocacy across the state through legislative engagement, arts education initiatives, member support, and strategic partnerships. You'll also see the impact of your membership and generosity, celebrate our collective accomplishments, and learn how, together, we are building a stronger future for the arts in Nebraska.

[NFTA Annual Report](#)



Get ready to celebrate creativity, culture, and the power of artistic expression! Whether you are an artist, an educator, an advocate, or simply a lover of the arts, this is the day to honor the voices and visions that shape our communities by being an arts advocate!

Dates:

Monday, Feb. 1 - Kick off Session and Evening Reception

Tuesday, Feb. 2 - Advocacy at the State Capitol

More information and registration will be available in December.

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](#)

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