Monday, January 30

4:30 p.m.   Registration  
*Location: Lobby, Lorien Hotel*

5:00 p.m.   Orientation for First-Time Attendees  
*Location: Independence, Lorien Hotel*

*In this session, attendees who have not previously participated in WESTAF’s Arts Leadership and Advocacy Seminar will be briefed on the purpose of the meeting and also updated on WESTAF and its work. Participants who have previously attended the Seminar and wish to be updated are welcome to join this session.*

6:20 p.m.  Transportation to Opening Reception and Dinner  
*Location: Lobby, Lorien Hotel*

6:45 p.m.  Opening Reception  
*Location: Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria*

7:30 p.m.  Dinner

Welcome and Participant Self-Introductions
- Erin Graham, Chair, WESTAF
- Laura Scanlan, Director of States and Regions, National Endowment for the Arts

8:15 p.m  Dinner Presentation  
- Sam Stein, Senior Politics Editor, Huffington Post

8:40 p.m.  Questions and Discussion

9:15 p.m.  Adjourn
Tuesday, January 31

7:45 a.m.  Full Breakfast and Initial Briefing
           Location: Liberty Ballroom, Lorien Hotel

8:00 a.m.  Welcome and Introductions
           ● Erin Graham, Chair, WESTAF

8:10 a.m.  The NEA Budget: Why Are We Stuck?

For several years now, participants in the WESTAF Arts Leadership and Advocacy Seminar have asked why the annual organized arts community congressional budget request is not more ambitious. Members of the group have noted that in recent years, requests have been very modest and even if granted, represent no meaningful increase for the federal arts agency. During this session, Seminar participants will hear how the annual arts organization request is prepared and the work that subsequently takes place with the Congress. They will also hear of ways other interest groups organize themselves to seek significant funding increases from Congress. The session will conclude with time for questions.

Participants:
   ● Dean Hingson, Principal, Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas
   ● Clara L. Pratte, Vice President, Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano
   ● Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs, Americans for the Arts
   ● Isaac Brown, Legislative Counsel, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Facilitator:
   ● Anthony Radich, Executive Director, WESTAF

9:10 a.m.  What to Expect in a Trump Administration

During this session, a seasoned political observer and writer will provide a perspective on what the arts community might expect from the evolving—and not yet fully in place—Trump administration. The formal presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

Speaker:
   ● Jonathan Allen, author and political commentator

10:00 a.m. The Materials and the Message

The advocates will review key messages to be presented to members of Congress.
Speakers:
- Erin Graham, Chair, WESTAF
- Anthony Radich, Executive Director, WESTAF

10:15 a.m. The NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership

Participants will be briefed on the ways the National Endowment for the Arts works directly with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to support wounded veterans.

Speakers:
- Bill O’Brien, Senior Innovation Advisor to the Chairman, NEA
- Marete Wester, Senior Director of Arts Policy, Americans for the Arts

11:00 a.m. Adjourn

Delegations depart for the Hill to meet with members of Congress and their staffs

4:45 p.m. Cocktails and Reports from Meetings on the Hill
Location: Liberty B, Lorien Hotel

5:45 p.m. Adjourn

Dinner on your own for non-WESTAF Trustees

6:45 p.m. WESTAF Trustee Dinner Meeting
Location: Liberty Ballroom, Lorien Hotel

9:00 p.m. Meeting of the Trustees Adjourns

Wednesday, February 1

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
Location: Liberty Foyer, Lorien Hotel

8:30 a.m. Briefing on Current WESTAF Initiatives
Location: Liberty Ballroom, Lorien Hotel

9:00 a.m. Adjourn for Meetings on the Hill

9:00 a.m. WESTAF Board Meeting (cont.)
Location: Liberty Ballroom, Lorien Hotel

11:30 a.m. Adjourn