

WESTAF



**REGIONAL PARTNER
HANDBOOK
REVISION 2023**

INTRODUCTION



WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) is a regional nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to strengthening the financial, organizational, and policy infrastructure of the arts in the West. WESTAF assists state arts agencies and arts organizations in their quest to serve diverse audiences, enrich the lives of local communities, and provide access to the arts and arts education for all.

Through this Regional Partner Handbook, WESTAF hopes to provide ample resources to help you succeed in your roles as state arts agency and advocacy directors. While we recognize that such organizations often share broad goals—such as aiding the development of a strong creative economy, support rural communities, foster inclusion & equity—each is designed to respond to the needs of their state’s unique cultural ecosystem.

WESTAF seeks to foster a sense of community throughout our region, and a strong support system is critical for any healthy community to thrive. If you have any questions about WESTAF, please reach out to us via our contact page below or reach out to one of our employees directly if you have a specific question you think they would be able to help answer.

OVERVIEW

The WESTAF Policy Cohort created the Regional Partner Handbook as a guide to national and regional resources to help you succeed. We recognize that there are many ways to navigate your role, so we hope that this document provides you with some starting blocks.



There are several other resources, such as what is provided by the National Assembly of State Art Agencies (NASAA) for new executive directors as detailed in the first section of this handbook. Current State Art Agency Executive Directors throughout the U.S. may also be available to help you as you begin in your role. Many in the WESTAF region have expressed a willingness to support new executive directors during the creation of this handbook, and we’ve included their contact information in subsequent sections.

We have divided this handbook into four thematic sections to allow users of this handbook organized access to the resources within.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES: ADVICE FROM THE FIELD

WHAT THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS, AND WHY YOUR STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"In my role as an ED of a state arts and culture agency, it is important to consider the broad needs of the state as a whole and the specific needs of our constituents and stakeholders. As ED, I keep the agency focused on our strategic vision, values and goals. I provide a safe and respectful working environment. I am an advocate for our agency, for artists, museums and art organizations. I serve as a liaison between our parent department and our agency. I represent our agency. I build and maintain critical relationships, with arts and museum leaders, with elected officials, with colleagues, with other state agencies and others. I bring my passion, wisdom, skills and experience to this job. It is important for an ED to be objective about the agency's strengths and weaknesses and to have the courage to make difficult choices that advance the vision of the agency. I serve as a buffer for the staff, trying to protect them from the vagaries of work life."—**An SAA-ED with five years of service in the role.**



"The role of ED of the state arts agency is unique and critical to the stewardship of the arts in a state. Typically, the state arts agency is the only state body concerned with all of the arts for all of the people, in all of the counties in all corners of a state. In addition, the state arts agency ED is often well positioned (better than most) to offer input and influence on state-level arts and creative economy policy and practice. As an "insider," you can often hear and see what is going on at an earlier and deeper level than those outside the state, and can therefore participate in a more influential manner to move arts policy and practice forward."—**An SAA-ED with eight years of service in the role.**



TOP 10 TIPS FOR SAA-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1. **Be bold and ask for what you need while making the case.**
 - a. Confidently ask for what you know is right and good—don't be afraid.
2. **Visit Artists in their spaces, in their communities.**
 - a. Find unique ways to engage with the arts and artists.
 - b. Make it a point to spend significant time in rural communities.
 - c. Make appearances at community art events by yourself and talk to artists.
 - d. Host a booth or table at a local arts event, county/local fair, rodeo, etc., to talk to your constituents.
3. **Adopt a rigidly nonpartisan approach and communicate about it.**
 - a. Frame legislative communications in constituency-based language.
 - b. Remember, it's not about YOU—it's about service to others.
 - c. There will be decision makers who do not believe in what you do. You will have to get over this.
4. **Staff and board members should feel invested in the work.**
 - a. Value, trust, and respect your staff (develop good working relationships with your staff) and give them the recognition they deserve, including monetary incentives and awards (if you can!).
 - b. Flexibility always, in the face of challenges and the realities of working in state government. Trust in your employees once they have shown themselves to be trustworthy. Do not micro-manage staff or any stakeholders.
 - c. Involve board and staff in your strategic planning efforts.
 - d. Give credit where it is due when great outcomes happen.
5. **Make friends; this is a tough gig to do alone.**
 - a. Take the time to get to know the folks in the state government that make things happen and become a connection.
 - b. Surround yourself with others who **think big** and continually work toward progress.
 - c. Be deliberate in cultivating relationships with decision makers and influencers.
 - d. Legislators are much more likely to listen to your message if someone else is delivering it.
 - e. Take time to get to know state leaders on a first-name basis.
 - f. Develop and draw upon a support network with fellow SAA ED's.
 - g. Lean on your peers for support and encouragement—you are not alone.

6. **Adopt 'arts ecosystem' as a model and metaphor.**
 - a. The arts are an ecosystem; be a scientist and a gardener
 - b. Create a Healthy Arts Ecosystem
 - c. Think outside the box; don't do things that others can do.
7. **Understand the industrial bases of the places in your state.**
 - a. Foster strategic partnerships to leverage power and resources.
 - b. Make wise choices about what support you can access from a variety of professional associations.
8. **Never assume you can't do anything and don't buy into the "we've always done it this way" mentality.**
 - b. Make wise choices about what support you can access from a variety of professional associations.
9. **Affirm to staff and field that BIPOC and rural/remote/frontier communities are top priority.**
10. **Find your passion for the work—it's the fuel that keeps you moving forward.**

**Passion, understanding, and
collaboration**

TOP 10 TIPS FOR ALLIANCE ORGANIZATION LEADERS

1. Stay curious.
2. Challenge the status quo.
3. Prioritize being a coalition builder.
4. Remember that one of your main jobs is to support the state arts agency in its growth and success.
5. Always make your state arts agency Director look great in the eyes of decision makers and influencers.
6. Success is sweeter when accomplished together.
7. Be a voice between the community to the state arts agency.
8. It's not about you; it's about the artists and arts you advocate for.
9. Change hearts, not minds.
10. Find your passion for the work—it's the fuel that keeps you moving forward.



ADVICE FOR CONDUCTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCHES

There are a number of ways to conduct searches for new executive director positions. A direct appointment is not the only option, and a state's precedence does not have to determine the method for how an executive director is chosen. The National Assembly of State Art Agencies (NASAA) provides support services for state art agencies undergoing executive transitions. This includes supplying sample job descriptions and position announcements; salary benchmarks by geography, budget size, and agency structure; information on leadership competencies important for state art agencies; and referrals to search firms with experience with state and regional arts organizations. NASAA also offers support for new executive directors, such as individualized onboarding calls with new directors once appointed, and it periodically convenes "boot camps" that support orientation, learning, and cohort building for recent appointees.

Below are additional resources supplied by NASAA for strategic planning and background information:

- Strategic Planning: <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/strategic-planning/>
 - Showcase of state arts agency strategic plans
 - Tips for preparing NEA Partnership agreement applications
 - Strategic planning surveys
- SAA Councils, Terms, Powers, and Duties: https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/saa_council_terms_powers_duties/
 - Provides information about state arts agency councils, commissions, and boards, which are necessary for NEA funding and partnerships.

Other Resources:

- Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Research Hub: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/research>
 - Highlights reports and studies that make a strong case for the arts and its economic, social, and educational benefits.
- National Assembly of State Art Agencies (NASAA) Best Practices: <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/best-practices/>
 - Strategy samplers, policy briefs, and more that offer analysis of state policies and practices as well as models for action.
- NASAA Creative Economy Resources: <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/creative-economy/>
 - Creative economy data and curated resources on how the arts and culture contribute to Economic Resiliency, Rural Prosperity, and Economic Development & Community Revitalization.
- NASAA Evaluation and Performance Tools: <https://nasaa-arts.org/research/evaluation-and-performance-measurement/>
 - Materials and tools to help state arts agencies to assess their own work and to provide grantees with program evaluation guidance.

STATE ARTS AGENCIES & JURISDICTIONAL ARTS AGENCIES AFFILIATED WITH WESTAF

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Overview: ASCA represents, supports and advances the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations and agencies throughout Alaska.
Website: <https://arts.alaska.gov/>
Contact: <https://arts.alaska.gov/staff>
Stay Up to Date: <https://arts.alaska.gov/asca-newsletters>
Executive Director: Andrea Noble-Pelant; andrea.noble@alaska.gov

AMERICAN SAMOA COUNCIL ON ARTS, CULTURE AND THE HUMANITIES (ASCACH)

Overview: ASCACH is primarily concerned with a dual mission to maintain Samoan arts and culture and the presentation of art forms from the broader world beyond the archipelago. The American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture and the Humanities mission is to encourage and maintain the traditional arts of American Samoa and the Samoan people, and also to expand access to non-traditional arts.
Website: <https://www.americansamoa.gov/departments>
Contact: Fuata Male Tiumalu; mtiumalu0714@yahoo.com

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Overview: The Arizona Commission on the Arts is an agency of the State of Arizona whose mission is to create opportunities for all Arizonans to participate in and experience the arts. To that end, we deliver grants and support to cultivate sustainable arts communities and promote statewide public access to arts and cultural activities.
Website: <https://azarts.gov/>
Contact: <https://azarts.gov/about-us/contact/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://azarts.gov/news-media/>
Executive Director: Jacky Allings; jalling@azarts.gov

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

Overview: Established by the State of California in 1976, the California Arts Council is a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all.
Website: <http://www.arts.ca.gov/>
Contact: <https://arts.ca.gov/contact/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://arts.ca.gov/news/artbeat/>
Executive Director: Jonathan Moscone; jonathan.moscone@arts.ca.gov

STATE ARTS AGENCIES & JURISDICTIONAL ARTS AGENCIES AFFILIATED WITH WESTAF

CONTINUED

COLORADO CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Overview: Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) believes in the power of creativity to inspire human connections, create social change, and support economic vibrancy throughout Colorado. We focus on strengthening the vitality of visual, performing, and literary arts through promotion, resources, and funding opportunities. Our mission is to promote, support and expand the creative industries to drive Colorado’s economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life. The creative economy subgroups are design, film and media, literary and publishing, performing arts, visual arts and design, and heritage.

Website: <https://coloradocreativeindustries.org/>
Contact: <https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-creative-industries>

Stay Up to Date:
<https://oedit.colorado.gov/news>

Executive Director: Josh Blanchard;
josh.blanchard@state.co.us

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS (CNMI)

Overview: Realizing that the arts play a significant role in advancing education, community and cultural pride and enrichment, economic develop creativity, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) will serve to develop and foster programs that promote excellence in the arts, promote and utilize our diverse artistic and cultural resources, provide quality arts experiences for our citizens and opportunities for artists, and promote and perpetuate the unique folk heritage of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Website: <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org/>
Contact: http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org/?page_id=23
Executive Director: Gloriana;
glorianafolkarts@gmail.com

ISLAND OF GUAM

Overview: The Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency was established in 1967 by the late Dr. Pedro Sanchez under the University of Guam and was then called the Insular Arts Council (IAC). The agency was dedicated to the development of programs in music, visual arts, cultural heritage, literature, and arts education. In 1972, Through Executive Order 75-23, the late Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo re-established the Insular Arts Council as part of the executive office in 1975.

Website: <https://www.guamcaha.org/>
Contact: <https://www.guamcaha.org/contact-us>
Stay Up to Date:

<https://www.guamcaha.org/happenings/press-releases>
Executive Director: Angie Taitague;
angie.taitague@caha.guam.gov

HAWAI'I STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Overview: The mission of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is to promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawai'i. SFCA funding is provided by the State of Hawai'i and the National Endowment for the Arts. The SFCA is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 9).

Website: <https://sfca.hawaii.gov/>
Contact: <https://sfca.hawaii.gov/about/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://sfca.hawaii.gov/news/>
Executive Director: Karen Ewald;
Karen.A.Ewald@hawaii.gov

STATE ARTS AGENCIES & JURISDICTIONAL ARTS AGENCIES AFFILIATED WITH WESTAF

CONTINUED

IDAHO COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Overview: The Idaho Commission on the Arts, a state agency under the Office of the Governor, enables access to the arts, arts education, and Idahoans’ cultural and artistic heritage. At the ICA, we provide administrative and management services for Idaho’s not-for-profit arts organizations, helping to stabilize their operations so that they can reliably deliver their public programs in the arts. We provide grants supporting access to the arts and arts education, leveraging significant community commitments in support of their programs. We provide elementary educators with new skills to model the creative process in their classrooms, to engage their students in active learning—learning by making and creating. We convene Idaho’s masters of traditional arts and occupational trades, enabling our cultural traditions to thrive.

Website: <https://arts.idaho.gov/>

Contact: <https://arts.idaho.gov/contact/>

Stay Up to Date: <https://arts.idaho.gov/recent-press/>

Executive Director: Laura Curry;
laura.curry@arts.idaho.gov

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

Overview: The Nevada Arts Council (NAC) was established as a state agency in 1967 to enrich the cultural life of the state by supporting, strengthening, and making excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans. The Nevada Arts Council supports Nevada’s rural communities, enlivens its public spaces, promotes health and healing, sparks economic growth, drives educational success, fosters inclusion and equity, reaches low income communities, creates opportunities for artists, and serves the public. The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Department of Tourism and Cultural affairs, receives funding from the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other private and public sources.

Website: <https://nvculture.org/nevadaartscouncil/>

Contact:
<https://www.nvartscouncil.org/about/staff-members/>

Stay Up to Date:
<https://www.nvartscouncil.org/recent-news/>

Executive Director: Tony Manfredi*;
tmanfredi@nevadaculture.org

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Overview: The Montana Arts Council is the agency of state government established to develop the creative potential of all Montanans, advance education, spur economic vibrancy and revitalize communities through involvement in the arts. Montana will be known far and wide as "The Land of Creativity," where the arts are essential to the creativity, imagination and entrepreneurship that make Big Sky Country the very best place on earth to live, learn, work and play.

Website: <https://art.mt.gov/>

Contact: <https://art.mt.gov/contact>

Stay Up to Date:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTARTS/subscribe/new>

Executive Director: Kristin Burgoyne;
kburgoyne@mt.gov

NEW MEXICO ARTS

Overview: New Mexico Arts is the state arts agency and a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. The 15-member governor-appointed New Mexico Arts Commission serves as our advisory body. Our primary function is to provide financial support for arts services and programs to nonprofit organizations statewide and to administer the 1% public art program for the state of New Mexico.

Website: <http://nmarts.org/>

Contact: <https://nmarts.org/contact-and-staff-info.html>

Stay Up to Date: <https://nmarts.org/breakingnews/>

Executive Director: Michelle LaFlamme-Childs*;
Michelle.Laflamme@dca.nm.gov

STATE ARTS AGENCIES & JURISDICTIONAL ARTS AGENCIES AFFILIATED WITH WESTAF

CONTINUED

OREGON ARTS COMMISSION

Overview: The Oregon Arts Commission was established in 1967 to foster the arts in Oregon and ensure their excellence. Nine Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine policies, establish long-range plans, and review applications to grants programs to determine funding levels. In 1993, the Oregon Arts Commission became a division of the Oregon Business Development Department in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Commission, making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

Website: <https://www.oregonartscommission.org/>
Contact: https://www.oregonartscommission.org/about/people?qt-our_people=1#qt-our_people
Stay Up to Date: <http://bit.ly/14jDO8r>
Executive Director: Brian Rogers*; brian.rogers@biz.oregon.gov

UTAH DIVISION OF ARTS AND MUSEUMS

Overview: Utah Arts & Museums (UA&M) seeks to advance Utahns' quality of life through arts and museum experiences and cultural opportunities. We are a service organization offering a variety of professional development opportunities and grants to serve our constituents. We serve schools, local arts agencies, organizations, community centers, performing groups, museums, and individuals across Utah.

Website: <https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/>
Contact: <https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/aboutartsandmuseums/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/newsletters/>
Executive Director: Vicki Bourns; vbourns@utah.gov

ARTSWA

Overview: ArtsWA is the Washington State Arts Commission. We are a state agency, formed by the Washington State Legislature in 1961. Our mission is to nurture and support the role of the arts in the lives of all Washingtonians. ArtsWA values diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe in diverse forms of artistic expression. The arts amplify voices across all populations. Access to arts and arts education should be available for everyone. The arts can and should address inequities, model inclusion, and teach empathy.

Website: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/>
Contact: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/contact-us/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/news/>
Executive Director: Karen Hanan*; karen.hanan@arts.wa.gov

WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL

Overview: Through grants, partnerships, programs and unique opportunities, the Wyoming Arts Council provides funding and support statewide for projects big and small. The WAC plays an important role in the economic and social development of every community by investing in the arts. It awards almost 150 grants and fellowships each year, funding programs and projects from every county, thereby serving more than a million participants, including 1.1m adults, 200k youth, 10k artists, and 1.3m people total. For every \$1 of Arts Council funding, local communities provided another \$35 worth of arts programming in FY16, with an estimated project value of \$32,167,251. The Wyoming Arts Council is funded through State of Wyoming General Funds, National Endowment for the Arts Federal Funds, endowments and private donations, sponsorships and registrations for events such as the annual Governor's Arts Awards.

Website: <https://wyoarts.state.wy.us/>
Contact: <https://wyoarts.state.wy.us/about/wac-staff/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://wyoarts.state.wy.us/news-media/newsblog/>
Executive Director: Rachel Clifton; rachel.clifton@wyo.gov

CITIZEN ADVOCACY GROUPS AND ARTS ADVOCATES IN THE WEST

ALASKA ARTS AND CULTURE FOUNDATION

Overview: The Alaska Arts & Culture Foundation strives to develop resources and provide services to support the arts in Alaska and advance the mission of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Website: <https://www.akarts.org/>
Contact form: <https://www.akarts.org/contact>
Stay Up to Date: <https://www.akarts.org/category/news-events>

ARIZONA CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS

Overview: For more than 35 years, it's been Arizona Citizens for the Arts job to promote the value of our nonprofit arts sector and advocate for public funding and private philanthropy to make sure the arts are available and accessible to every citizen of our wonderful state.

Website: <https://azcitizensforthearts.org/>
Contact: info@azcitizensforthearts.org
Stay Up to Date: <https://azcitizensforthearts.org/home-2-2/>
(subscription form on right-hand side of page)

CALIFORNIANS FOR THE ARTS

Overview: California Arts Advocates (CAA), provides advocacy services for California's arts community. CAA provides professional advocacy for all arts stakeholders in California, from the smallest troupe to the largest institution, from the solo artist to the largest organization, from the most diverse to the most mainstream, regardless of cultural segment or economic standing.

Website: <https://californiaartsadvocates.org/>
Contact: <https://californiaartsadvocates.org/about/contact-us/>
Stay Up to Date: <https://californiaartsadvocates.org/about/newsletter/>

COLORADO BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

Overview: Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has been forging inspiring partnerships between business and the arts since 1985 through year-round advocacy, research, training and arts engagement efforts. As a champion of artists, cultural organizations and creative industries, CBCA advances Denver and Colorado as a cultural hub and validates the arts as an integral part of our regional economy. CBCA also demonstrates that art is smart for business by providing the business community with access, exposure and visibility for their investment in the arts.

Website: <https://cbca.org/>
Contact: main@cbca.org
Stay Up to Date: <https://cbca.org/news-posts/>

CITIZEN ADVOCACY GROUPS AND ARTS ADVOCATES IN THE WEST

CONTINUED

HAWAII ARTS ALLIANCE

Overview: Hawai'i Arts Alliance is a statewide private nonprofit that champions all arts. The Alliance has been an ARTS FIRST partner since its inception in 2001. We are the State Captain for the national arts advocacy organization, Americans for the Arts, a member of the State Arts Advocacy Network, and the Hawai'i Wolf Trap affiliate.

Website: <https://www.hawaiiartsalliance.org/>

Contact: arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org

CULTURAL ALLIANCE NEVADA

Overview: Cultural Alliance Nevada (CAN) is a statewide nonpartisan arts advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of arts, culture and arts education through advocacy, data, education and partnership.

Website: <https://www.culturalalliancenv.org/>

Contact: <https://www.culturalalliancenv.org/contact-us>

Stay Up to Date: <https://www.culturalalliancenv.org/arts-advocacy-registration>

CREATIVE NEW MEXICO

Overview: Creative New Mexico is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization officially incorporated as New Mexico Community Arts Network (dba Creative New Mexico). The work of the organization is accomplished by a volunteer Board of Directors, supplemented by Advisory Members, that represent rural and urban areas of the state and have affiliations with arts councils; cultural districts; museums; libraries; visual, literary and performing arts organizations; MainStreet New Mexico; New Mexico Arts; and the New Mexico Humanities Council.

Website: <https://www.creativenewmexico.org/>

Contact: <https://www.creativenewmexico.org/contact-us/>

Stay Up to Date: <https://groups.io/g/creativenm>

CULTURAL ADVOCACY COALITION OF OREGON

Overview: The primary mission of CACO is to increase ongoing public investment in arts, culture, history, heritage, and humanities. Volunteers serve on the Board of Directors and include representatives from a broad number of interests to best represent the diverse mix of Oregon's cultural community.

Website: <https://www.oregonculture.org/>

Contact: <https://oregonculture.org/contact/>

Stay Up to Date: <https://oregonculture.org/news-and-resources/>

CITIZEN ADVOCACY GROUPS AND ARTS ADVOCATES IN THE WEST CONTINUED

UTAH CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Overview: Founded in 1980, the Utah Cultural Alliance (UCA) is a statewide voice for the cultural industry, working to advance arts, museums, film, humanities, and entertainment. We are an industry association representing 300 businesses and thousands of creative professionals.

Website: <https://www.utahculturalalliance.org/>

Contact: https://www.utahculturalalliance.org/staff_directory

Stay Up to Date: <https://www.utahculturalalliance.org/newsletters>

INSPIRE WASHINGTON

Overview: Cultural Access Washington and the Washington State Arts Alliance have joined forces. With an energized vision and new name, Inspire Washington aims to build a broad and powerful statewide coalition to champion advocacy and resource development for Washington's cultural sector. Our powerful union of science, heritage, and the arts, creates extensive reach, profound impact and innovative opportunities.

Website: <https://inspirewashington.org/>

Contact: <https://inspirewashington.org/who-we-are>

Stay Up to Date: <https://inspirewashington.org/news>

WYOMING ARTS ALLIANCE

Overview: WyAA strives to represent citizens in all regions of the state. Because public funding, particularly state arts funding, has played an important role in building Wyoming's cultural infrastructure, the Wyoming Arts Alliance focuses much of its attention on the preservation and expansion of state and local arts support.

Website: <https://wyomingarts.org/>

Contact: <https://www.wyomingarts.org/contact-wyaa/>

Stay Up to Date: <https://www.facebook.com/wyomingarts/>

WESTERN ARTS ADVOCACY NETWORK (WAAN)

In 2020, WESTAF launched a Western Arts Advocacy Network (WAAN) that brings together leaders from state arts advocacy organizations and other key advocates from across the West. WAAN has collectively, in partnership with advocates across the region, secured over \$900 million in critical relief, recovery, and new program investments from state governments in the West during the pandemic. WAAN convenes year round to consider sustainability of arts advocacy in the region, advocacy strategies, messaging and tactics, and systems and infrastructure to support statewide advocacy. The group and its individual members, in partnership with WESTAF, engage members of Congress and state legislators to provide policy recommendations and advocate in support of legislation that resources and advances arts, culture, and the creative economy.

WAAN MEMBERS

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Ben Brown, Chair

Contact: benjamino1789@hotmail.com

Website: <https://www.akarts.org/>

ARIZONA CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS

Patrick McWhortor, Chief Executive Officer

Contact: pmcwhortor@azcitizensforthearts.org

Website: <https://azcitizensforthearts.org>

CALIFORNIANS FOR THE ARTS/CALIFORNIA ARTS ADVOCATES

Julie Baker, Chief Executive Officer

Contact: julie@californiansforthearts.org

Website: <https://californiaartsadvocates.org/>

WESTERN ARTS ADVOCACY NETWORK (WAAN) CONTINUED

WAAN MEMBERS

COLORADO BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

Christin Crampton Day, Executive Director

Contact: ccd@cbca.org

Website: <https://cbca.org/>

IDAHO COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Laura Curry, Executive Director

Contact: laura.curry@arts.idaho.gov

Website: <https://arts.idaho.gov/>

HAWAI'I ARTS ALLIANCE

TBA

Contact: TBA

Website: <https://arts.idaho.gov/>

MONTANA CULTURAL ADVOCACY

Paul Stahl, Chair

Contact: stahlkp@msn.com

WESTERN ARTS ADVOCACY NETWORK (WAAN) CONTINUED

WAAN MEMBERS

CULTURAL ALLIANCE NEVADA

Tia Flores, Chair

Contact: tia@culturalalliancenv.org

Website: <https://www.culturalalliancenv.org>

CREATIVE NEW MEXICO

Laurie Rufe, Vice Chair

Contact: vp@creativenewmexico.org

Website: <https://www.creativenewmexico.org>

CULTURAL ADVOCACY COALITION

Sue Hildick, Director

Contact: sue@oregonculture.org

Website: <https://www.oregonculture.org>

UTAH CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Crystal Young, Executive Director

Contact: cyo@utculture.org

Website: <https://www.utahculturalalliance.org>

WESTERN ARTS ADVOCACY NETWORK (WAAN) CONTINUED

WAAN MEMBERS

INSPIRE WASHINGTON

Manny Cawaling, Executive Director
Contact: manny@inspirewashington.org

Website: <https://inspirewashington.org>

WYOMING ARTS ALLIANCE

Andrew Schneider, Director of Operations
Contact: andrew.schneider@wyomingarts.org

Website: <https://wyomingarts.org>



OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The following section provides a list and at-a-glance overview of national arts service organizations. State arts agencies, jurisdictional arts agencies, citizen advocacy groups, and arts advocates may have a varying degree of collaboration and depth of relationships with these organizations.

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Overview: Americans for the Arts (AFTA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build recognition and support for the extraordinary and dynamic value of the arts and to lead, serve, and advance the diverse networks of organizations and individuals who cultivate the arts in America. To inform decision-makers, AFTA gathers, generates, and disseminates data, information, and the tools needed by arts industry stakeholders.

Website: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/>

Contact: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/about-americans-for-the-arts/contact-us>

Stay Up to Date: http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/subscription_form_artsusa.cfm?user_id=ArtsUSA&subId=1901

Helpful Links:

- Staff Directory: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/about-americans-for-the-arts/staff>
- Join Membership: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/membership>
- Research: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/research>

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Overview: Americans for the Arts Action Fund (Arts Action Fund) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit membership organization affiliated with Americans for the Arts. It is the only national organization where 100% of its time, money, and political clout is dedicated to advancing the arts in the United States. The organization has a mission to organize one million citizens to join the Arts Action Fund.

Website: <https://www.artsactionfund.org/>

Contact: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

Helpful Links:

- Join the Arts Action Fund: <https://www.artsactionfund.org/join-arts-action-fund>

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Overview: The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the professional association of the nation’s 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA is a national, not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that champions public support for the arts in America.

Website: <https://nasaa-arts.org/>
Contact: nasaa@nasaa-arts.org
Stay Up to Date: <https://nasaa-arts.org/subscribe-nasaa-notes/>

- Helpful Links:**
- State Art Agency Directory: <https://nasaa-arts.org/state-arts-agencies/saa-directory/>
 - Who's Who in Government Arts Funding (PDF): https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_advocacy/america-supports-the-arts-whos-who-in-government-arts-funding-pdf/

GRANTMAKERS IN THE ARTS

Overview: Grantmakers in the Arts (GIA) provides professional development for grants artmakers through conferences, workshops, and webinars; publications including the GIA Reader; research and policy work across the field of philanthropy; and online communication tools. GIA is the only national association of both public and private arts and culture funders in the U.S.

Website: <https://www.giarts.org/>
Contact: gia@giaarts.org
Stay Up to Date: <https://www.giarts.org/subscribe-to-the-news-digest>

- Helpful Links:**
- Join Membership: <https://www.giarts.org/membership>
 - Webinar Series: <https://www.giarts.org/webinar>

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

BE AN ARTS HERO

Overview: Be an Arts Hero is an intersectional, 100% volunteer-run, grassroots campaign comprised of Arts & Culture workers, Unions, and institutions in the United States pushing the Senate to allocate proportionate relief to the Arts & Culture sector of the American economy.

Website: <https://beanartshero.com/>
Contact: info@beanartshero.com

- Helpful Links:**
- Getting Involved Info: <https://beanartshero.com/get-involved>
 - Lobby Guide: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lsgUP4jch8u1WLAx39ZGQAD3K-wLGe20/view>

THE CREATIVE COALITION

Overview: The Creative Coalition is a nonprofit advocacy group that sponsors forums for the discussion of vital issues such as arts funding, education policy, and other topics of broad concern, in addition to offering special services for its supporters in their public roles as advocates and spokespeople.

Website: <https://thecreativecoalition.org/>
Contact: Info@TCOnline.org

- Helpful Links:**
- Join Membership: <https://thecreativecoalition.org/join/>

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

BIPOC LED ARTS ADVOCACY COALITION

Contact: rice@artsalliance.org & michelle@alternateroots.org

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT VENUE ASSOCIATION

Overview: The National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) is a trade association that formed in mid-April 2020 and is focused on the implementation of the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant program (SVOG), reopening, changing relationships with performance rights organizations, and evolving into a sustaining trade association representing and bolstering the independent venues and promoters.

Website: <https://www.nivassoc.org/>
Contact: info@nivassoc.org

Helpful Links:

- Save Our Stages Act: <https://www.nivassoc.org/sos-act>
- Join Membership: <https://www.nivassoc.org/join>

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ARTS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

CONTINUED

U.S. REGIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Overview: The U.S. RAOs are a national collective of six place-based nonprofit arts service organizations committed to strengthening America’s infrastructure by increasing access to creativity for all Americans. From their inception, Regional Arts Organizations have been integrally tied to State Arts Agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts. These partnerships help ensure that public funds are distributed responsively, equitably, and efficiently across the United States. Other RAO partners include foundations, local arts agencies, arts organizations, corporations, businesses, and individuals.

The Regional Arts Organizations are:

- **Arts Midwest** (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin)
- **Mid-America Arts Alliance** (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas)
- **Mid Atlantic Arts** (Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia)
- **New England Foundation for the Arts** (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)
- **South Arts** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee)
- **WESTAF** (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai’i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)

Website: <https://usregionalarts.org/>

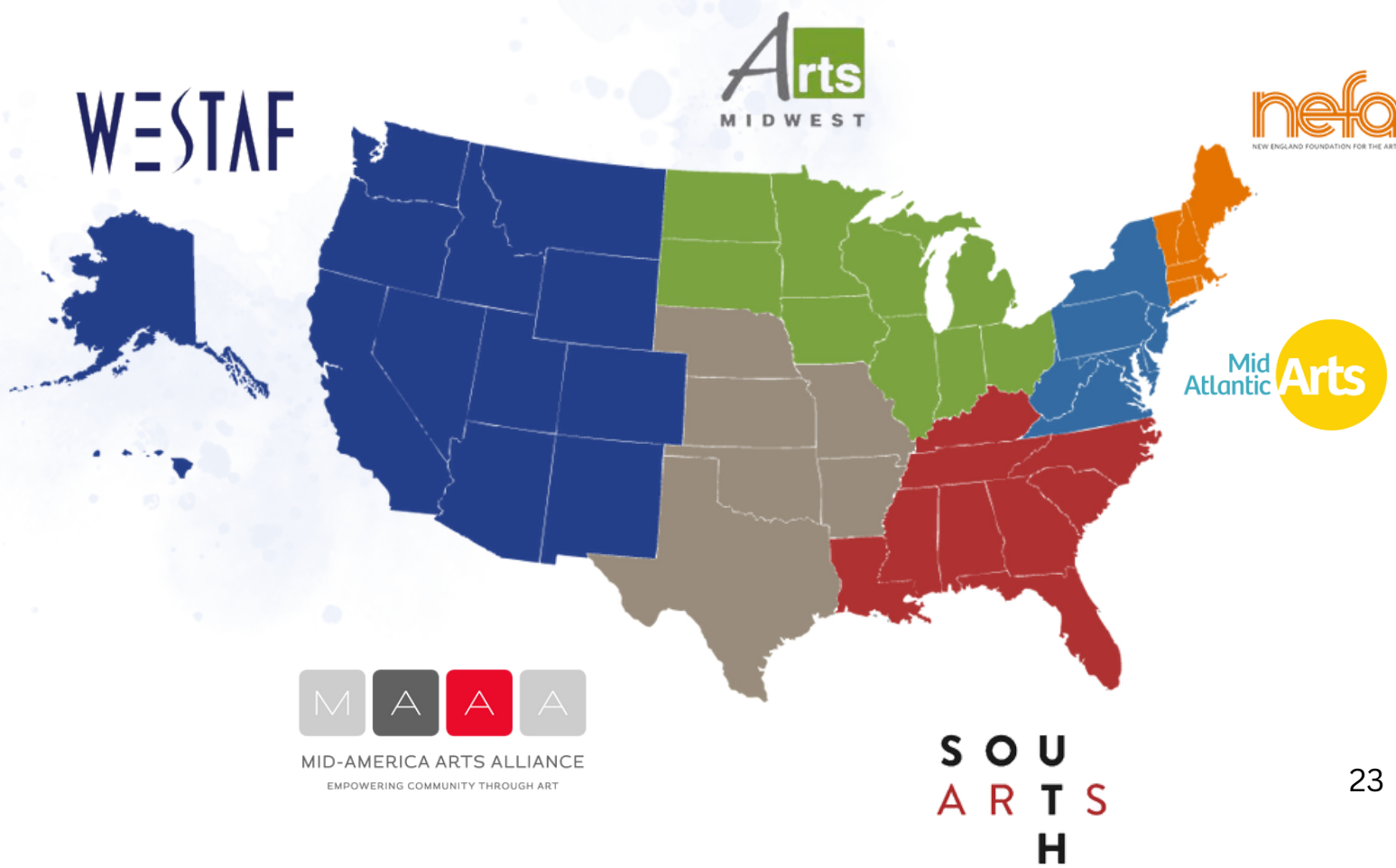
Contact: <https://usregionalarts.org/contact/>

- TBA

Helpful Links:

List of Funding and Programs in each RAO (with access for eligible applicants and participants from anywhere in the country):

<https://usregionalarts.org/funding-and-programs/national/>



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge those individuals who contributed to the creation of the initial Western States Arts Federation Regional Partner Handbook.

WESTAF Policy Cohort

The WESTAF Policy Cohort is made up of staff members and trustee advisors from across WESTAF who are interested in strengthening policy related to the arts. The Policy Cohort's mission is to bring together diverse minds from across WESTAF to elevate policy discourse and enact change.

Policy Cohort Members:

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Staff Directory: <https://www.westaf.org/westaf/staff/>

WESTAF

REGIONAL PARTNER HANDBOOK

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