

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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Arts & Military Snap Survey Results

April 2016

NASAA's Arts & Military Snap Survey was a first step toward gaining a more comprehensive understanding of state arts agency (SAA) and regional arts organization (RAO) policies, programs, services, partnerships and other efforts to serve military and veteran populations. The survey was a brief questionnaire designed to illuminate key areas of effort and gauge the status of arts agency programs focused on this issue area. To provide greater depth, in conjunction with the survey NASAA prepared a [State Arts & Military Initiatives Strategy Sampler](#) which provides examples of state level programs and compiles program development guidance from multiple interviews with state arts agencies working on military and veteran service issues.



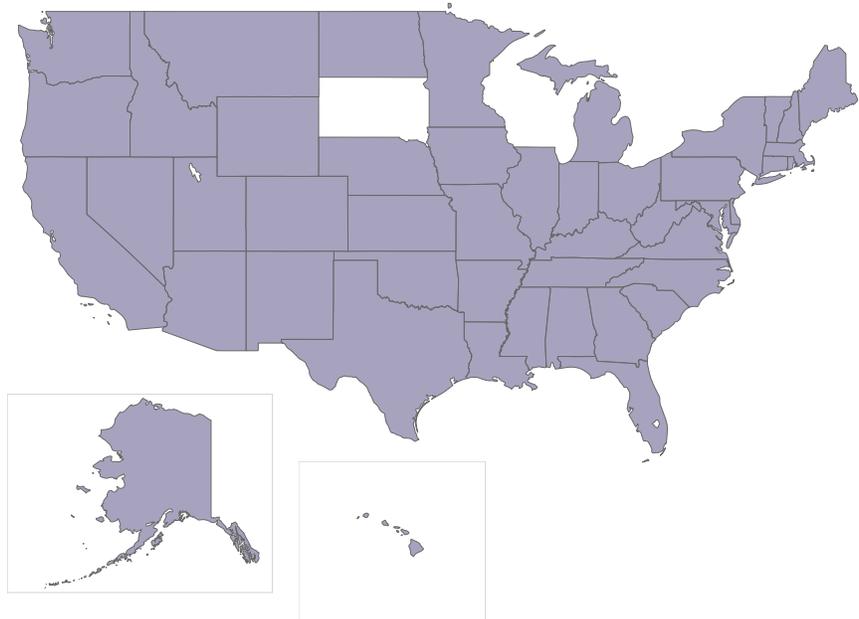
Roland Hamand, son of U.S. Army Spc. Eric Hamand, shows his winning drawing entitled "Why I'm proud to be a part of the military family" during Operation Enduring Families.

Response Rate and Methodology

Between January and March 2016, NASAA administered this on-line survey and sent it to all 56 state arts agencies and 6 regional arts organizations.

49 out of 56 state arts agencies and 6 out of 6 regional arts organizations responded to the survey. This equated to a **total response rate of 89%**.

NASAA Arts & Military Snap Survey Responses by State



Highlights

A large majority of state arts agencies are pursuing at least one program, policy, service or partnership related to serving military and veteran populations through the arts.

- Regarding engagement in a number of relationships, programs, policies and services, 45 out of 49 state arts agencies and 3 out of 6 regional arts organizations answered yes to at least one of the options.

State arts agencies are capitalizing on current capacities in grant making and public art as well as the established National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Blue Star Museums program.

- 60% of respondents were either considering or implementing a grant program serving military/veteran populations.
- 42% of respondents participate in the Blue Star Museums program.
- 31% of respondents said that they had helped facilitate public art projects in facilities serving military or veteran populations.



Lt. Col. Craig PUNCHES admires a painting at the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, South Carolina, during a [Blue Star Museums](#) event. Photo by Scott Henderson

State arts agencies and regional arts organizations are actively engaged in partnerships to facilitate work with military and veteran populations. Partnerships are most frequently reported to exist with state humanities councils and state agencies that serve veterans.

- 72% of respondents either had developed or were considering developing strategic partnerships. 27% reported a strategic partnership and 45% reported that they were considering partnership development.
- 62% of respondents reported collaborations with state humanities councils. This percentage increases to 67% when excluding regional arts organization responses.
- 42% of respondents reported having a relationship with a state agency serving veterans.

A few respondents are implementing surveys, collecting data, or conducting other research regarding military and veteran populations.

- Only 9% of respondents reported using surveys or other research as a strategy.
- Only 15% of respondents reported having data about military or veteran populations living in their states.
- Outside of NEA final reporting requirements, only 5% collect data on serving military or veteran audiences.

SAA and RAO Arts & Military Policies, Programs and Services

State arts agencies and regional arts organizations were asked whether they were engaged in any of the following policies, programs and services or any other initiatives to serve military/veteran populations. The most frequent response showed strong participation in promoting the NEA Blue Star Museum program. Nearly half of the respondents were considering strategic partnership development, and 60% were either considering or implementing a grant program serving military/veteran populations.

Policies, Programs and Services	Yes	No	Being considered	Unknown
Promoting the NEA Blue Star Museums program	42%	33%	11%	15%
Strategic partnership development	27%	25%	45%	2%
Other communications	27%	38%	25%	9%
Strategic planning	24%	35%	31%	11%
Grants	22%	36%	38%	4%
Training or convenings	11%	53%	33%	4%
Surveys or other research	9%	58%	25%	7%

Open Responses to Policies, Programs and Services

The survey allowed for open responses to the question of what policies, programs and services were being employed by state arts agencies.

States have been embedding service to military active-duty and veteran populations within their grant-making structures. This occurs through encouragement within grant guidelines as well as states funding specific projects and organizations that work with military/veteran populations within their current grant program structure.



Theater Bartlesville's (Oklahoma) *If All the Sky Were Paper* is a compelling drama about soldiers, written by soldiers through their personal letters during many American wars. Photo courtesy of Tom Mardis

"One the many areas that our accessibility program tries to focus on is veterans, especially those with physical disabilities."

"The newly appointed poets laureate include veterans in their target audiences, using poetry to address social issues."

"The military community will be integrated into our 5 year Health & Wellness Initiative."

"Grants to dance and theater artists working with military/veterans populations in the creation of new work include subsidies to presenters of the work on active military bases."



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Epley, Jazz Ambassadors guitarist, works with a student. Soldiers of the U.S. Army Field Band conduct educational outreach clinics. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

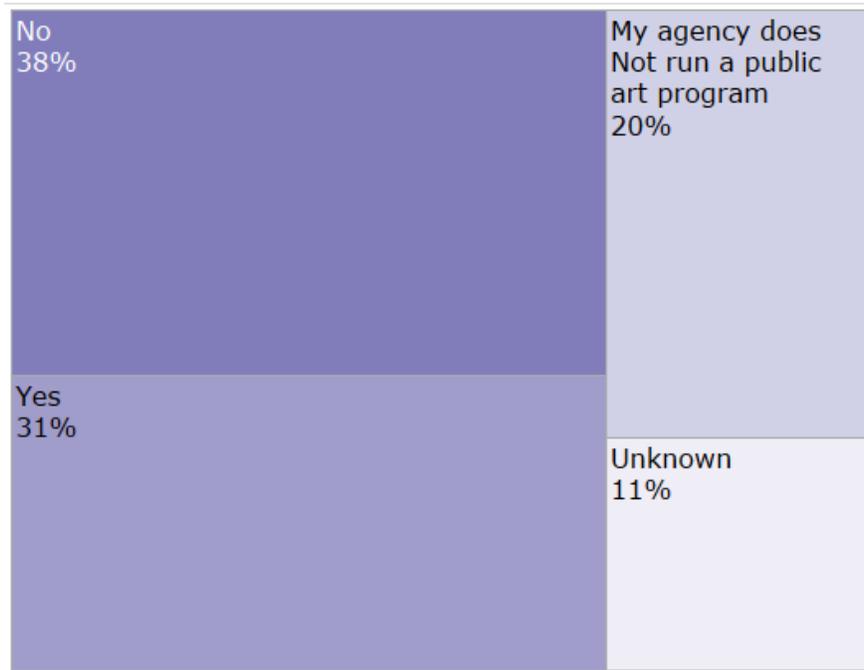
A theme emerged highlighting the nexus between healing, arts therapy, accessibility and work with veterans. Work with veterans can be part of SAA programs that support arts accessibility, aging and healing.

Several states specifically mentioned poetry as a point of entry when working with veteran populations.

Public Art in Military Facilities

The survey specifically asked whether agencies were involved in public art installations or acquisitions related to military/veteran facilities. About one-third of respondents answered yes.

Has your agency facilitated the installation or acquisition of public art or percent for art projects in facilities serving military or veteran populations?



Sgt. Nicholas Raia of Altoona, Pennsylvania, strums his guitar on top of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

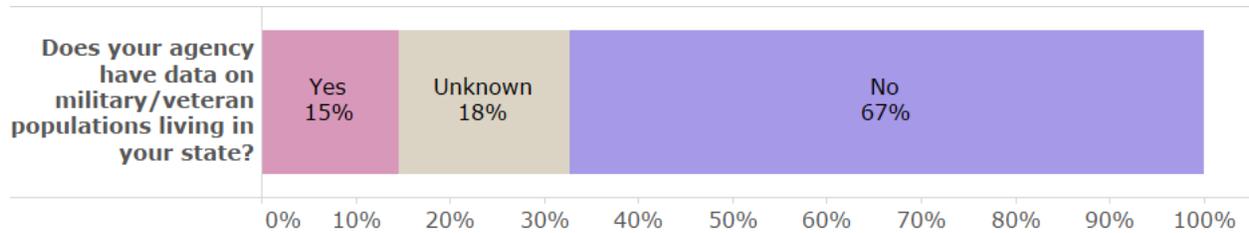
SAA and RAO Arts & Military Relationships

SAA and RAOs were asked about their partnerships and relationships regarding military/veteran services. By a wide margin, the most frequent relationship cited was with a state humanities council. Regarding engagement in a number of relationships, programs, policies and services, 45 out of 49 state arts agencies answered yes to at least one of the options. While this doesn't speak to the depth of these initiatives, it does indicate that engagement in the issue is broad among state arts agencies.

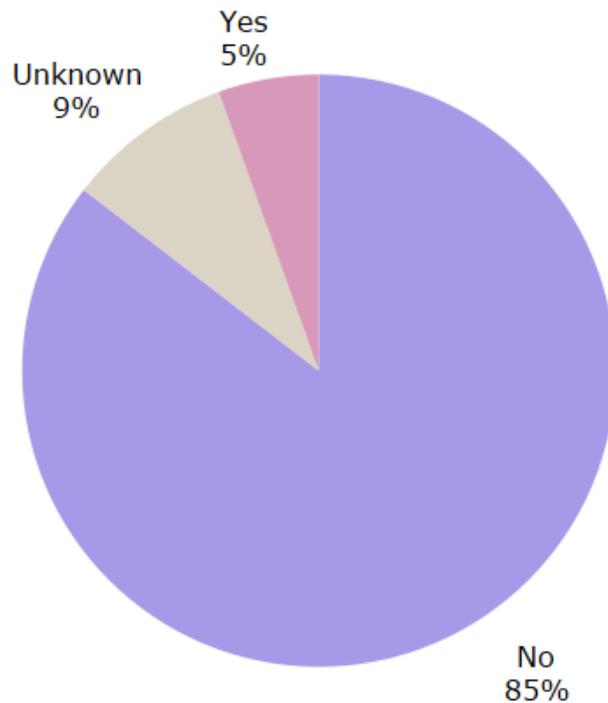
Relationships	Yes	No	Being considered	Unknown
State humanities councils	62%	24%	5%	9%
State agencies serving veterans	42%	33%	22%	4%
Arts organizations with a mission of serving military/veteran communities	29%	44%	16%	11%
Art therapists	27%	45%	18%	9%
State legislators or committees overseeing military/veteran populations	27%	36%	24%	13%
Non-arts organizations with a mission of serving military/veteran communities	25%	47%	16%	11%
Federal legislators or committees overseeing military/veteran populations	18%	49%	20%	13%
American Legions (state departments or local posts)	7%	67%	13%	13%

Data Collection Efforts

The survey inquired into state and regional efforts to collect data on arts and military populations and audiences served. Few audience level data collection efforts exist at the state level. Responding agencies also reported limited data on military and veteran populations residing in their states. NASAA will help state arts agencies with data resources on this topic.



Apart from FDR requirements, does your agency collect data on military/veteran audiences served?



For more about state arts agency arts & military initiatives, contact [Paul Pietsch](#).

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Its mission is to strengthen state arts agencies by representing their individual and collective interests, empowering their work through knowledge, and advancing the arts as an essential public benefit. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. Together, NASAA and state arts agencies work to broaden access to the arts in every corner of America and to serve the public good by making the arts an essential ingredient of state policy. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352 or visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

NASAA and state arts agencies are supported and strengthened in many ways through partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts.



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