

NASAA ASSEMBLY 2022

**KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI**

**SEPTEMBER
22-24**



HOSTED BY MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

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**SCAN TO ACCESS MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT NASAA ASSEMBLY 2022**



AGENDA & SESSIONS



PEER GROUPS & AGENDAS



SPEAKERS & ARTISTS

WELCOME!



Welcome to Kansas City, hometown to Mid-America Arts Alliance! In “the city of fountains” you will find a thriving arts scene renowned for jazz, visual and performing arts, and the grand culinary art of BBQ. From the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts to The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art and the American Jazz Museum, Kansas City is sure to delight and offers many options for incredible artistic adventures. I encourage you to enjoy KC’s creative experiences, from nearby jazz clubs and theatres to those a little farther from the hotel—including the Nelson-Atkins, Plaza Art Fair (September 23–25) on the Country Club Plaza and historic Mutual Musicians Foundation (for a late-night jam session).

It’s been four long years since the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies has convened a full Assembly. While we take a moment to acknowledge the COVID-19 pandemic’s devastation and lasting imprint, I hope, like me, you look forward to convening with those who work toward the common goals of creating access to the arts and lifting the careers of artists and arts professionals throughout the United States.

Founded in 1972 in Lincoln, Nebraska, by a group of civic leaders in the region, Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) was formed around the idea of working collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries to increase access to the arts. That idea led M-AAA to become the nation’s first regional arts organization. For the past 50 years, M-AAA has brought together the arts and artists to enrich the cultural and creative life of all parts of mid-America, and it has awarded more than 18,000 grants totaling \$51 million across our region of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as across the nation and even internationally.

We believe—much like our region—that creativity comes from within, and at M-AAA we are committed to empowering communities through art. Please enjoy your time connecting, reconnecting, and getting inspired by your colleagues and this incredible art-filled city we call home.

Warmly,



Todd Stein
President & CEO
Mid-America Arts Alliance



Holbrook Lawson
Chair
Mid-America Arts Alliance



CELEBRATING



Thank you for joining us in Kansas City
and in celebrating our 50th anniversary as the nation's
first Regional Arts Organization.

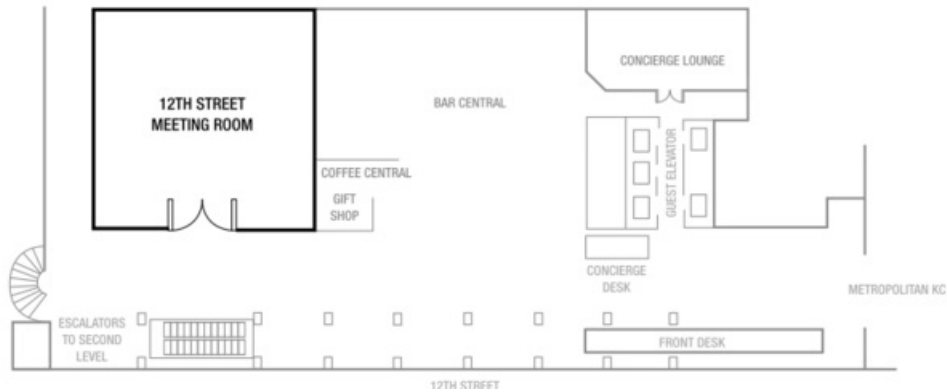


MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

MORE **ART** FOR MORE PEOPLE
maaa.org

HOTEL FLOOR PLANS

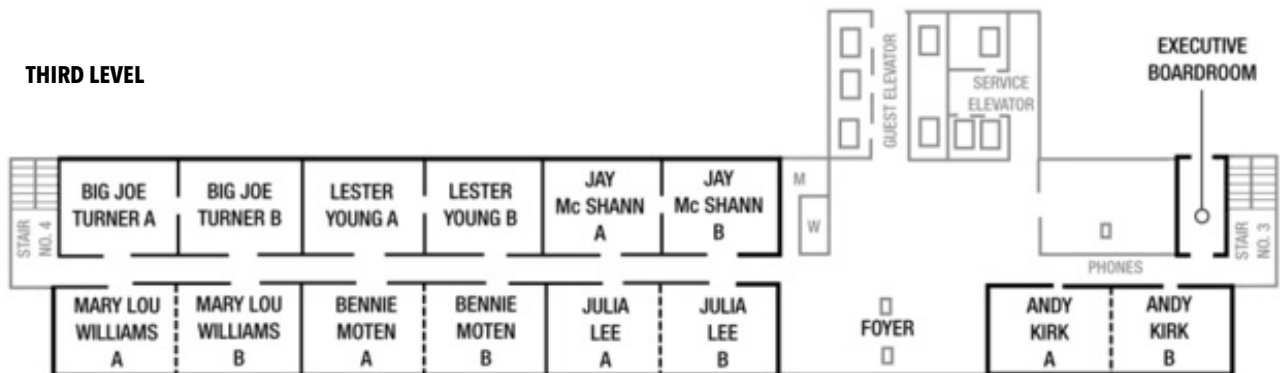
MAIN LEVEL LOBBY



SECOND LEVEL



THIRD LEVEL



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



Access NASAA Assembly 2022 speaker and session details at conferences.nasaa-arts.org

Sessions and events take place at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown unless otherwise indicated.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

NASAA Board of Directors Meeting

12th Street Meeting Room, Main Level

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Contactless Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Contactless Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Enhancing Arts Education Opportunities through Technology: A special lunch presented by The Richard J. Stern Foundation & Mid-America Arts Alliance

12th Street Meeting Room, Main Level

12:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Animating NASAA

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

1:00 - 2:15 P.M.

Opening Session & Roll Call of the States

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

Topical Sessions

Engaging in Asset Based Capacity Building

Count Basie Ballroom A, Second Level

Partnering for Pandemic Recovery

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

Steps toward Greater Accessibility at Your State Arts Agency

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

Helping Nonprofit Arts Organizations Adopt Stronger DEI Practices

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

Successful State Level Advocacy Collaborations

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Artist Showcase: What Is a Chickasaw Composer?

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Opening Reception

American Jazz Museum 1616 E 18th St. Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel's Central Street entrance beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Final shuttles depart museum at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

Buffet Breakfast

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Contactless Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Peer Sessions

Arts Education Managers

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

Chairs and Council Members

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

Communications Managers/PIOs

Lester Young B, Third Level

Community Development Coordinators

Jay McShann A, Third Level

Deputy/Assistant Directors

Big Joe Turner A, Third Level

Executive Directors

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

Folk and Traditional Arts Program Managers

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

Grants and Fiscal Officers

Big Joe Turner B, Third Level

12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Networking Luncheon

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

1:00 - 1:45 P.M.

Plenary Session with the National Endowment for the Arts

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Topical Sessions

Belger Crane Yards Studios

2011 Tracy Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Belger at 5:00 p.m.

Charlotte Street Foundation

3333 Wyoming St.

Kansas City, MO 64111

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Charlotte Street at 5:00 p.m.

Supporting Teaching Artists' Work in BIPOC Communities

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

Leading DEI Change through Public Art

Arts KC

106 Southwest Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Arts KC at 5:00 p.m.

Independent Filmmaking: Supporting the Artists and Community

Historic Lobby, Lower Level

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Donor Reception

Mid-America Arts Alliance

2018 Baltimore Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 6:00 p.m.

Final shuttles depart Mid-America Arts Alliance at 7:30 p.m.

EVENING

Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 - 9:45 A.M.

NASAA Leadership Awards Breakfast

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Topical Sessions

Advocates Abound!

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

Artist Workforce Strategies

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

The Promise and Problems of the Arts in Rural Communities

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

Climate Change, Migration and Sustaining Culture

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

The Equity GAP Project

Lester Young B, Third Level

11:15 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Closing Session & Business Meeting

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level



Look for images from the Arkansas Arts Council's Small Works on Paper exhibition, along with specially curated works from the Nebraska Arts Council, in the slide loops prior to every plenary session! Now in its 35th year, Small Works on Paper is a juried visual art exhibition that showcases 2-D artwork no larger than 18 x 24 inches by Arkansas artists who are members of the Arkansas Artist Registry.

Image: *Apocalyptic Thinking*, by Crystal Jennings



SPEAKERS & ARTISTS

SESSIONS & EVENTS



Access NASAA Assembly 2022 speaker and session details at conferences.nasaa-arts.org

Sessions and events take place at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown unless otherwise indicated.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Contactless Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Enhancing Arts Education Opportunities through Technology: A special lunch presented by The Richard J. Stern Foundation & Mid-America Arts Alliance

12th Street Meeting Room, Main Level

12:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Animating NASAA

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

Experiment with animation techniques and become a star in a NASAA family film! Drop by the temporary home of The Edge of Imagination Station to create a short animated video that will be edited into a short film shown at the Closing Session. Expert animator and editor Johnny Villarreal will be there to help you with your work and edit the film into this Assembly's blockbuster release!



1:00 - 2:15 P.M.

Opening Session & Roll Call of the States

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

Raise your voice and participate in a NASAA tradition: the annual roll call of the states and jurisdictions!

2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

Topical Sessions

These short sessions focus on timely topics and showcase models from many different states, including the Mid-America region.

Engaging in Asset Based Capacity Building

Count Basie Ballroom A, Second Level

This session focuses on the distinct needs of small/mid-size organizations and identifies how state arts agencies can tailor support—learning, networking or grants—to be useful to them. It draws on insights from 10 years of collaboration between Mid-America Arts Alliance and 80 cultural organizations in Houston, Texas, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Partnering for Pandemic Recovery

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

The scale of losses and the impact of permanent changes triggered by COVID-19 are more than any one agency or organization can address on its own. This session features examples of state arts agencies in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Vermont that are entering into innovative partnerships to leverage resources and help people and communities heal as we move into a postpandemic era.

Steps toward Greater Accessibility at Your State Arts Agency

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

Approximately 25% of all Americans live with a disability. Some disabilities are visible, some are not; some are temporary and some permanent. State arts agencies have an important leadership role to play in helping their communities to create more inclusive spaces and programs for people with disabilities. This session provides a look at the Breaking Barriers cultural accessibility project, a unique partnership between Art Access and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, to provide disability accessibility training and mentorship for Utah's cultural institutions.

SPEAKERS & ARTISTS



Helping Nonprofit Arts Organizations Adopt Stronger DEI Practices

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

What technical assistance, training or consulting services can state arts agencies provide to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work at the grantee/community level? What strategies tend to be effective, and what could be counterproductive? Hear about various approaches that different states are pursuing. The Delaware Division of the Arts, Nevada Arts Council and North Carolina Arts Council share their experiences in working with constituents.

Successful State Level Advocacy Collaborations

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

State arts advocacy organizations and state arts agencies each have distinct roles to play when it comes to cultivating support for the arts. This session showcases ways that state arts agencies and cultural advocacy groups have joined forces to attain policy wins in today's challenging legislative landscape.

4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Artist Showcase: What Is a Chickasaw Composer?

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

Join our showcase artist, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, as he discusses and demonstrates his dedication to the development of American Indian classical composition. A dedicated Chickasaw classical composer and pianist, Tate expresses his native culture in symphonic music, ballet and opera. He will be enlightening Assembly participants on the depth and breadth of his native culture and how it intertwines with his European classical music training.



7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Opening Reception

American Jazz Museum

1616 E 18th St. Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel's Central Street entrance beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Final shuttles depart museum at 9:00 p.m.

Join your colleagues from around the nation for a special NASAA family reunion at the American Jazz Museum, located in Kansas City's Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District.

Interactive exhibits, mingling and a musical performance by Pablo Sanhueza and the Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra in the famous Blue Room all come together in this special evening!



Many thanks to the United States Regional Arts Organizations for sponsoring this event.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

Buffet Breakfast

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Contactless Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Peer Sessions

Time for a confab with your peers! These special extended peer sessions offer state arts agency staff and council members the opportunity to network and exchange ideas within job-alike groups. The agenda development and discussions all are led by volunteers from the field.

Arts Education Managers

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

Chairs and Council Members

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

Communications Managers/PIOs

Lester Young B, Third Level

Community Development Coordinators

Jay McShann A, Third Level

Deputy/Assistant Directors

Big Joe Turner A, Third Level

Executive Directors

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

Folk and Traditional Arts Program Managers

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

Grants and Fiscal Officers

Big Joe Turner B, Third Level

12:00 – 1:00 P.M.

Networking Luncheon

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

1:00 – 1:45 P.M.

Plenary Session with the National Endowment for the Arts

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

Hear from National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D., as she recognizes her state partners and discusses her dedication to inclusivity, collaboration, and the importance of the arts in our nation as we continue to recover from the pandemic and mend the rifts in our communities.



2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Topical Sessions

Belger Crane Yards Studios

2011 Tracy Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Belger at 5:00 p.m.

Visit 100-year-old brick buildings that were transformed into a center for contemporary art and have some of the best views of Kansas City. Belger Crane Yard Studios is an arts complex dedicated to providing studio and exhibition space for artists, and a range of programming in ceramics education.

Charlotte Street Foundation

3333 Wyoming St. Kansas City, MO 64111

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Charlotte Street at 5:00 p.m.

Charlotte Street centers Kansas City's most forward-thinking visual artists, writers and performers—acting as the primary incubator, provocateur and connector for the region's contemporary arts community, and its leading advocate on the national stage. Attend this session for a chance to see their incubation/collaboration space, enjoy an artistic experience, and meet to speak with some of their artists on their changing needs.

Supporting Teaching Artists' Work in BIPOC Communities

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

State arts agencies play an important role in the development, engagement, employment and empowerment of teaching artists across the nation. A vital part of their work is equipping teaching artists with the skills to adapt to new learning environments, and that should include responding to the unique needs of distinct populations or exploring practices rooted in particular cultural traditions. A few states have programs in place that assist teaching artists and help support social equity in their work, but what about states that cannot put a full-fledged program in place? This session explores some ways that state arts agencies can equip their teaching artists with skills to work within cultural groups that differ from their own.

Leading DEI Change through Public Art

Arts KC

106 Southwest Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 2:00 p.m.

Shuttles depart Arts KC at 5:00 p.m.

Working toward racial equity takes dedication and a willingness to admit and learn from our failures. There are no foolproof guides or programs, nor is there one correct way to take on the work. Many times, for state arts agencies, that journey starts by looking closely at our programs and policies. Taking a closer look at public art programs often means identifying who is creating the artworks, whose voice is heard and uplifted, and what barriers exist, then engaging the increasingly diverse audience for which it is created. When done well, this can lead to more equitable spaces, deeper conversations on racial equity and momentum toward achieving the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) goals of your agency in other areas. This session takes a look at the work of ArtsWA, the Maryland State Arts Council, New Mexico Arts and the Oklahoma Arts Council, and includes a moderated discussion on what you can do in your state and next steps in this field.



Independent Filmmaking: Supporting the Artists and Community

Historic Lobby, Lower Level

Films often take years to make, involving dozens of tireless cast and crew. They become a visible expression of the artists who have spent years crafting their vision and those who have joined them in their quest to bring their vision to life. But there are multiple noncreative hurdles filmmakers have to clear to get to a final film. The good news is that state arts agencies and regional arts organizations have the ability to engage with filmmakers and provide support in a variety of ways throughout the process. This dialogue-driven session explores how state arts agencies and regional arts organizations can better support filmmakers in their region. It features a panel with representatives from the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa, South Arts and independent filmmakers. There is also an opportunity to watch the films of the filmmakers on the panel and talk to them about their process. Snacks will be served!

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Donor Reception

Mid-America Arts Alliance

2018 Baltimore Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64108

Shuttles depart hotel entrance at 6:00 p.m.

Final shuttles depart Mid-America Arts Alliance at 7:30 p.m.

Join your fellow NASAA supporters to enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, celebrate our community and raise a toast. Multi-instrumentalist and composer Amado Espinoza shares music rooted in the spiritual traditions of the Andes. All individual donors and conference supporters are invited.



EVENING

Dinner on your own

Kansas City dining embodies the city's diverse influences, from international flavor and home-style cooking to unrivaled craft beer breweries. Many galleries and music venues will be open late this evening.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 - 9:45 A.M.

NASAA Leadership Awards Breakfast

Count Basie Ballroom A, A1, B & B1, Second Level

Celebrate the outstanding work and exemplary leadership of our state arts agency field! Let's give three cheers to the 2022 NASAA Leadership Awards winners: the Distinguished Public Service Award for a council member; the Luminary Award for Transformative Executive Leadership for an executive director; and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awards, one for an individual and one for an agency.

10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Topical Sessions

Advocates Abound!

Bennie Moten A & B, Third Level

There are many new state and national advocacy cohorts emerging, all working to grow support for the arts. This session offers a primer on who's who in the arts advocacy landscape and how state arts agencies can stay apprised of their efforts.

Artist Workforce Strategies

Julia Lee A & B, Third Level

The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant income losses for independent artists and creative workers. This trend is concerning not only because of the hardship it caused for artists and their families, but also because the creative economy relies on the robust production and engagement of artists. Attend this session to learn how a number of states and localities have launched new artist workforce programs to employ artists and lift up how they help communities address timely issues.

(Continued on next page)



The Promise and Problems of the Arts in Rural Communities

Andy Kirk A & B, Third Level

Rural communities face challenges that are unique to their geographic and cultural settings. These often include impacts from increasing ecological changes, population shifts, resource limitations and complex cultural contexts. This session features a facilitated dialogue on the challenges and opportunities that state arts agencies face now and will face over the next decade with regard to the shifting landscape of their rural communities and the needs of the organizations and people that live there.

Climate Change, Migration and Sustaining Culture

Mary Lou Williams A & B, Third Level

Most of the focus around climate change has centered on the environmental impact, but, in addition, cultures and communities will experience displacement—predicted to be twice as large as the Great Migration from the U.S. South or flight during the Dust Bowl. State arts agencies, and the communities they serve, can be valuable allies in supporting cultural preservation for communities at risk and in preparing other communities to receive newcomers.

The Equity GAP Project

Lester Young B, Third Level

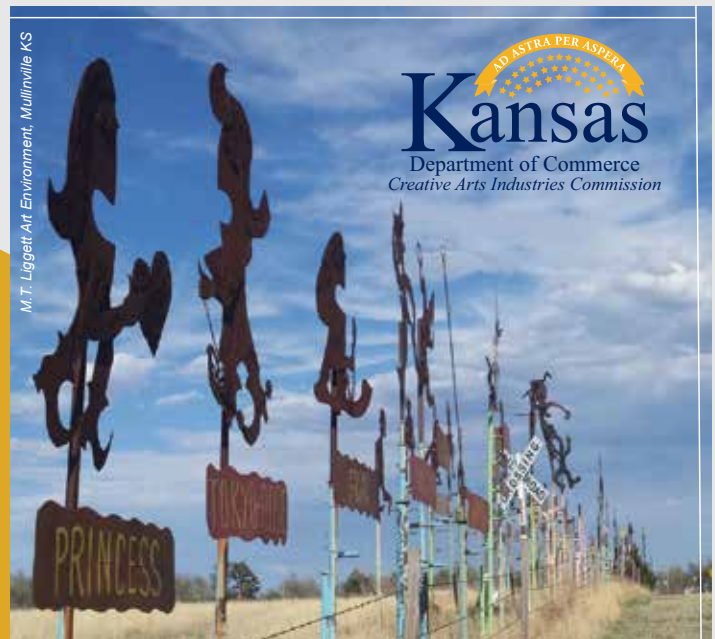
The Equitable Grant Making Assessment Pilot (Equity GAP) Project is a learning initiative to assess the Ohio Arts Council's general operating support grant making. A partnership between the state arts agency, NASAA and consultant Angela Han, the pilot project sought to help the agency continually improve funding for all Ohio communities—including rural areas, the Appalachian region, people of color, low-income communities and disabled populations. This session summarizes key findings from the assessment, shares ways the agency is taking action on the results, and offers lessons learned from the process that may be helpful to other states.

11:15 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Closing Session & Business Meeting

Count Basie Ballroom C & C1, Second Level

After some brief business, the closing ceremonies include the first showing of the new member-created NASAA blockbuster film, Animating NASAA.



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Arkansas
Arts Council
ArkansasArts.org

Advancing and empowering
the arts for the benefit
of all Arkansans.

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Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9150





SPEAKERS & ARTISTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name Badges

Your name badge is your “admission ticket” to conference sessions and special events. Be sure to wear it during all conference functions. If you lose or misplace your badge, you may replace it at the NASAA Staff Office. Ribbons attached to name badges are identified below.

Yellow	NASAA Staff
Black	NASAA Board
Blue	Mid-America Arts Alliance
Red	Speaker, Panelist or Facilitator
Light Blue	Artist
Green	Sponsor
Purple	Donor
Lavender	NASAA Leadership Award Recipient

Assembly 2022 Registration

Ballroom Foyer, Second Level

Registration for NASAA Assembly 2022 is contactless. The registration desk is open during these times:

Wednesday, September 21,
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 22,
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 23,
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you miss registration, please visit the NASAA Staff Office.

NASAA Staff Office

Yardbird A, Second Level

If you missed registration, lost your badge or have a question concerning the meeting, stop by the NASAA Staff Office.

Documentation

NASAA uses a variety of media (including photography and video and audio recording) to capture conference proceedings. NASAA may disseminate selected material, images or recordings for documentation, education and promotion purposes.

Meeting Site

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings take place at:

*Kansas City Marriott Downtown
200 W 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105
816-421-6800*

As in any urban environment, we encourage you to be aware of your surroundings when leaving the hotel and walk in groups of two or more.

Pandemic Protocols

During the conference, NASAA will be following all local requirements and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended precautions, and we ask our Assembly participants to do likewise.

NASAA encourages everyone to be diligent about their personal health both inside the hotel and in the city at large. To support your own efforts, NASAA will:

- ensure the registration process is contactless,
- provide masks for those who would like to use them,
- supply hand sanitizer,
- provide rapid tests on site for you to self-administer should you feel unwell or become concerned about a possible exposure to COVID-19,
- provide optional stickers to indicate your social distancing preferences. Please be mindful of the preferences of other conference participants.

NASAA wants everyone to fully enjoy the Assembly.

Photo Credits

Page 3 Todd Stein photo by Sabrina Staires
Page 10 Maria Rosario Jackson photo by David K. Riddick
Page 11 Crossroads Arts District photo by Kim Golding
Page 13 18th & Vine photo courtesy Visit KC
Page 17 Massachusetts based Latinx artist Silvia Lopez Chavez partnered with Mass Cultural Council's grantee GreenRoots Chelsea to conceptualize, design and paint the Chelsea Resilience Mural in collaboration with the Chelsea Cultural Council.
Page 18 Jean Tokuda Irwin photo by Kent Miles
Pages 24, 25 Kansas City Skyline East photo by Jason Dailey



YOUR FEEDBACK HELPS US IMPROVE. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! AT THE END OF THE ASSEMBLY, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS SURVEY



Come PLAY and MAKE ART with stop-motion animation guru, Johnny Villarreal.
Courtesy of Texas Commission on the Arts and Mid-America Arts Alliance

The Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts is proud to support NASAA's Assembly 2022.

The Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts is a mainstay in supporting arts organizations in the Kansas City metropolitan area, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Richard J. Stern. The Foundation's goals are to enhance the quality and to further the availability of the Arts to Kansas City and its visitors.

The Foundation hopes your visit reveals to you how special Kansas City is. We hope you come back soon and often to enjoy our arts and culture.

The Foundation would also like to thank Mid-America Arts Alliance for bringing the 2022 Assembly to Kansas City and congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary.



Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts

Commerce Bank, Trustee

2022 NASAA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The NASAA Leadership Awards showcase best practices of state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, recognize exemplary leadership, and demonstrate how government creatively, effectively and efficiently serves the public through the arts.



LUMINARY AWARD FOR TRANSFORMATIVE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes an executive director who makes a significant contribution to public support for the arts at the state, regional and national levels. Awardees display exemplary and inspirational leadership, innovative thinking and dedication to diverse artistic expression. The Luminary Award is inspired by Gary Young, an early state arts agency leader.*



Margaret Hunt

Director, Colorado Creative Industries

Margaret Hunt has served as director of Colorado Creative Industries in the governor's Office of Economic Development since 2013 under Democratic Govs. Jared Polis and John Hickenlooper. She previously served as director of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums beginning in 2005 under Republican Govs. Jon Huntsman and Gary Herbert. She was executive

director of community and economic development for Salt Lake City, where she oversaw housing, planning and zoning, business licensing, transportation, and the Salt Lake City Arts Council. Hunt is rooted in community building and strategic planning from her days as manager of economic development for PacifiCorp Energy Company in a seven-state western region. She served as director of the International Microfinance Training Program for Naropa University and vice president of a fundraising consulting group leading capital campaigns for nonprofits. Hunt has served as a trustee of NASAA and WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) and has received leadership awards that include the Utah Governor's Leadership Award from Utah Small Cities, Inc., the Pathfinder award for mentoring women in business from the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Helping Hands Award for corporate volunteer programs in Utah schools, and United Way's Volunteer of the Year award. Hunt is a visual artist, with work hanging in the Salt Lake City International Airport, and a published author. She currently chairs Philanthropy Colorado's Arts & Culture Funders Group and is a member of the International Women's Forum of Colorado. She is a very proud mother and grandmother.

**In 2022, NASAA's National Awards Task Force changed the name of the Gary Young Award to the Luminary Award for Transformative Executive Leadership.*

PREVIOUS GARY YOUNG AWARD RECIPIENTS

2020 Gary Gibbs, Texas
2018 Suzanne Wise, Nebraska
2016 Randall Rosenbaum, Rhode Island
2014 Rich Boyd, Tennessee
2012 Christine D'Arcy, Oregon
2010 Arlynn (Arni) Fishbaugh, Montana
2008 Suzette Surkamer, South Carolina
2007 David Fraher, Minnesota
2006 Robert Booker, Arizona

2005 Philip Horn, Pennsylvania
2004 Dennis Holub, South Dakota
2003 Barbara Fulton Moran, New Jersey
2002 John Paul Batiste, Texas
2001 James Backas, Maryland
2000 Betty Price, Oklahoma
1999 Peggy Baggett, Virginia
1998 Al Head, Alabama
1997 Bennett Tarleton, Tennessee
1996 Shelley Cohn, Arizona
1995 Mary Hays, New York
1994 Wayne Lawson, Ohio
1993 Alden C. Wilson, Maine
1992 David Nelson, Montana
1991 Mary Regan, North Carolina



DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This award honors a chair or council member whose outstanding service, creative thinking and exemplary leadership significantly impact public support for the arts at the state level and across the country.



Cyndy Andrus

Former Chair, Montana Arts Council

Cyndy Andrus has lived and worked in Bozeman, Montana, for nearly 30 years. She is a member of the Bozeman City Commission, serving her second term as mayor. She is one of only four women to serve in that position, and in 2018 received the Bozeman Business and Professional Women's Woman of Achievement Award. She has served on the city commission since 2010. Before moving to Bozeman, Andrus worked as an interpretive naturalist ranger in

Yellowstone National Park and as a ranger on the Alagnak Wild River and in Alaska. Some of her duties in Yellowstone included presenting an evening program on the trumpeter swan (including an eight-foot tall swan costume made from chicken wire and bedsheets) and leading hikes through various parts of the park while monitoring people and the occasional bear. In Alaska, her duties included watching the evening program of the bears trying to tip over the outhouse near her cabin and the continual monitoring of giant brown bears and the occasional person. Andrus is an active community member and an ardent supporter of the arts; she has worked in the tourism industry for more than 25 years. She was a governor's appointee to the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, serving 10 years, including two years as chair. Andrus is the former chair of the Montana Arts Council, serving three governors for 18 years. She is a board trustee of WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) and a former NASAA and National League of Cities board member. When she is not volunteering or performing her official duties, you can find her exploring the backroads of Montana with her husband in their 1982 Volkswagen camper van, attending the Red Ants Pants Music Festival, or sharing with her siblings the management duties of her family's beer garden at the Minnesota State Fair (chocolate chip cookie beer, anyone?). Andrus is married to Brady Wiseman (former Montana legislator) and has a lifelong passion for travel, culture and the culinary arts. She loves football (go Gophers, Vikings and Bobcats!), black licorice and the occasional sipping of a single malt (Speyside).

PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2020 Nola Ruth, Missouri
 2018 Molly Leach Pratt, Tennessee
 2016 Bruce Richardson, Wyoming
 2014 Bobby Kadis, North Carolina
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 2010 Lucius (Lu) Ellsworth, Virginia
 2008 Margaret "Peggy" Kannenstine, Vermont
 2007 David "White Thunder" Trottier, North Dakota
 2006 Delores C. Fery, Idaho
 2005 Margaret "Tog" Newman, North Carolina
 2004 William Davis, West Virginia
 2003 Judith Ann Rapanos, Michigan
 2002 Dr. Oscar E. Remick, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York
 2001 Barbara S. Robinson, Ohio
 2000 Carol Brown, Pennsylvania



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AGENCY AWARD

This award recognizes the policies, practices and programs of state arts agencies or regional arts organizations that embrace and advance diversity, equity and inclusion at the state or regional level. Awardees demonstrate innovative and exceptional efforts to be diverse, equitable and inclusive in their work.



MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL



Under the guidance of Executive Director Michael J. Bobbitt, Mass Cultural Council (MCC) administers all of its programs and services with racial equity and access goals in mind. Recent efforts include training staff and

council members in diversity, equity and inclusion. MCC also hired its first director of people & culture, as well as four outreach coordinators to work with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and/or people of color) communities that have been historically un- or under-funded. Additionally, through the administration of a one-time COVID-19 relief program for Asian American and Pacific Islander cultural organizations, MCC developed new tools and outreach strategies to connect with constituents in their preferred language.

In 2021, MCC developed its first Racial Equity Plan, which outlines internal and external actions to ensure programs and resources are accessible and delivered equitably across the sector. Under Bobbitt's leadership, the agency's external engagement model has changed in that the focus is now on actively recruiting and building relationships across all communities to ensure that resources are available and accessible across the cultural sector (rather than expecting potential stakeholders to "find us"). MCC's Racial Equity Plan has received national attention: in June 2022, MCC was recognized by Empower Success Corps for leadership in helping cultural nonprofits navigate the pandemic landscape and for advocating strongly for equitable funding and increased funding for the arts. By achieving the goals outlined in the Racial Equity Plan, MCC hopes to ensure a more equitably financed cultural sector across all Massachusetts communities.

PREVIOUS DEI AGENCY AWARD RECIPIENTS

2020 Colorado Creative Industries



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INDIVIDUAL AWARD

This award honors an individual who serves as a catalyst for change, exhibiting outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness about issues of diversity, equity and inclusion at the state or regional level.



Jean Tokuda Irwin

*Arts Education Program Manager, Utah
Division of Arts & Museums*

Jean Tokuda Irwin is a visual arts dabbler, is devoted to *kintsugi* and believes in the value of *tsundoku*, global travel, saving this planet and learning. Her work *East Went West and Was Lost* appeared in the 2002 Winter Olympics Cultural Olympiad Women Beyond Borders; her *The Goddess of Hysterectomy* was featured in Art Access Gallery and publications; and her *The American Way* (the story of children who died while detained along the U.S./Mexico border) appeared in Clay, Paper, Scissors Gallery in Laramie, Wyoming.

The arts education program manager for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums (UDAM), Irwin's professional service includes serving as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and a reviewer for the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities Youth Program Awards. She served on NASAA's Arts Education Leadership Advisory Group and

is on NASAA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Arts Education Subcommittee. She is one of six non-Indigenous individuals who served on the Utah American Indian/Alaska Native Education Committee; UDAM/Arts Education is currently in a partnership on the Native American Curriculum Initiative. Irwin was one of three Asian Americans on the Coalition for Minorities Advisory Council to the State Board of Education. While on the National PTA Diversity Committee and board of directors, she piloted dance and film/video for National PTA Reflections, later adopted by the organization. Her awards include the Salt Lake City Mayor's Individual Arts Award, the Utah Counselor's Association's Human Rights Award, the Ruby Chacon Award for Arts & Social Justice, the Sorensen Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement in Arts Education, a Special Recognition Award from Utah Cultural Alliance, and the 2020 Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Texas Permian Basin.

PREVIOUS DEI INDIVIDUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

2020 Carla Du Pree, Maryland

2020 Deonté Griffin-Quick, New Jersey

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for the NASAA Assembly 2022 Opening Reception

Musical performance by Pablo Sanhueza and the Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra

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It is with deep gratitude that we recognize our donors and partners, who generously support NASAA's work. Your gifts empower state arts agencies with the knowledge, representation and community they need to keep doing the incredible work they do every day—for the arts and through the arts. Thank you!

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

It is great to see you again! After two and a half years in a Zoom box, it is so energizing to be surrounded in person by passionate, dedicated arts people, all sharing a common goal to strengthen the arts. I love this group of people and this community.

Being together after so long apart reinforces to me the importance of community—the necessity of it, really. I'm so thankful that NASAA is here for us, fostering our connections—both virtual and physical—so that we can make it through challenging times together. Thanks to NASAA, we are never alone! In coming together and connecting with each other, we learn from and with each other, pool resources, deepen relationships and get inspired.

Beyond a network and community, NASAA is our support system, our partner, our champion and so much more. I've been involved with NASAA as a member, a board member and now as board chair, and have been fortunate to see and experience all the ways that NASAA is here for us. I've turned to NASAA more times than I can count for advocacy tools, data and research, one-on-one consulting, equity strategies, even fundraising advice. You name it, I've asked for it—and NASAA always delivers.

I hope that like me, you too have benefitted from NASAA's support, and that you're excited to be here and connect with your peers. While you're here, I also hope you'll make a gift to NASAA. Your gift makes our field stronger by supporting the work that supports you.

Please stop by the fundraising table today to give, or go online at nasaa-arts.org.

There's one more thing I'm grateful for and that's you. Thank you for being here. For pushing pause on your life, rearranging your schedule, sacrificing personal time ... it hasn't been easy, I know you're busy, maybe even running a little on empty. It means a lot to us that you're here, and I hope by the end of our conference you feel rejuvenated to keep showing up for the arts and doing the incredible work you do every day.

I can promise that NASAA will keep working to support you and to strengthen your work, your agency and all state arts agencies. Thank you!

Cheers,

Omari Rush

Former Chair, Michigan Arts and Culture Council
Chair, NASAA Board of Directors

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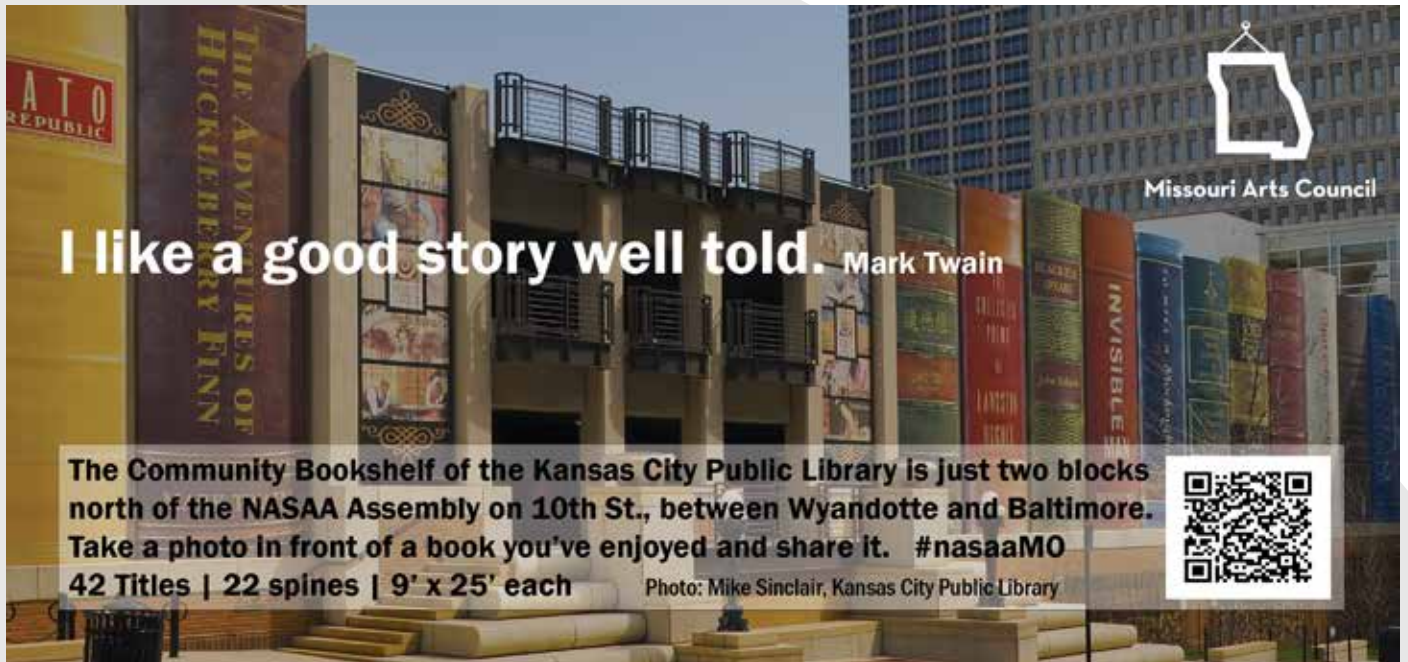
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