

# NASAA ASSEMBLY 2024

**Business Meeting Materials**  
Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel & Casino  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Thursday, October 24**

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**Saturday, October 26**

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- [NASAA Board of Directors](#)
- [NASAA Bylaws](#)

# NASAA ASSEMBLY 2024

## **Business Meeting Agenda**

### **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Thursday, October 24 and Saturday, October 26, 2024

#### **Thursday, October 24**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approvals

#### **Saturday, October 26**

- VII. Chair's Report
- VIII. Nominating Committee Report
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjourn

### **Standing Rules**

1. NASAA's annual business sessions take place Thursday, October 24 at 8:45 a.m. and Saturday, October 26, at 11:45 a.m.
2. Members participating shall be established by roll call and reported to the chair.
3. The Assembly membership consists of the state and jurisdictional arts agencies, represented by the chair and/or executive director of each constituent agency. The member representatives may designate an acting chair or acting executive director for purposes of voting. The NASAA chief advancement officer (Laura Smith) or secretary of the Assembly (LaVon Bracy Davis, Former Chair-FL) must be notified of any such designations prior to the beginning of the business session.
4. Each member agency of the Assembly is entitled to one vote.
5. Members wishing to speak or ask questions shall be recognized by the chair.
6. The chair may establish a time limit for discussion on any question and may choose to limit discussion on any question to voting members.
7. The rules of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised In Brief*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, shall govern the sessions in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Assembly and the Standing Rules.

Questions about the business sessions or standing rules should be directed to NASAA chief advancement officer [Laura Smith](#).

# NASAA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Knowledge ▲ Representation ▲ Community

## NASAA 2023 Business Session

October 23, 2023

*Virtual Convening*

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern

The session was called to order by NASAA Chair Omari Rush, former chair of the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern on Monday, October 23, 2023.

Rush noted that business meeting materials were distributed to all voting members on October 10, 2023. The following member agencies were present:

Alaska State Council on the Arts  
Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Arkansas Arts Council  
California Arts Council  
Colorado Creative Industries  
Delaware Division of the Arts  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities  
Florida Division of Arts and Culture  
Idaho Commission on the Arts  
Illinois Arts Council Agency  
Iowa Arts Council  
Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission  
Louisiana Division of the Arts  
Maryland State Arts Council  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Michigan Arts and Culture Council  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
Missouri Arts Council

Montana Arts Council  
Nebraska Arts Council  
Nevada Arts Council  
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts  
Ohio Arts Council  
Oklahoma Arts Council  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture  
South Carolina Arts Commission  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
Utah Division of Arts & Museums  
Vermont Arts Council  
Washington State Arts Commission  
West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and  
History  
Wisconsin Arts Board  
Wyoming Arts Council

The following motions were presented and approved:

**To approve the agenda** (passed by unanimous voice vote)

**To approve the 2022 business session minutes** (passed by unanimous voice vote)

**To approve the FY2024 action plan** (passed by unanimous voice vote)

**To approve the FY2024 budget** (passed by unanimous voice vote)

**To approve the Nominating Committee recommendation for one two-year term as NASAA chair**  
(passed by unanimous voice vote):

- Donna Collins, Executive Director, Ohio Arts Council

**To approve the Nominating Committee slate for three-year terms on the NASAA board of directors**  
(passed by unanimous voice vote):

- Ruben Alvarez, Special Advisor, Arizona Commission on the Arts\*
- LaVon Bracy Davis, Council Member, Florida Division of Arts and Cultural Affairs\*
- Michael Donovan, Executive Director, Missouri Arts Council
- Marcela "Xela" Garcia, Council Member, Wisconsin Arts Board
- Tasida Kelch, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
- David Schmitz, Executive Director, Iowa Arts Council

\*These board members will continue their service for a second term.

Rush thanked board members whose terms were ending. He also thanked all members who served on NASAA's 2023 Planning & Budget, Governance, and Nominating committees.

The business session adjourned on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern.



## 2024 Nominating Committee Report

Julie Vigeland (Former CH-OR), Chair

Chandra Boyd (DD-OK), Amy Cunningham (DD-VT), Michael Donovan (ED-MO), Marcella Garcia (CM-WI), Sue Gens (ED-MN), Michelle Laflamme-Childs (ED-NM), David Lewis (ED-MS), Mike Markey (ED-NE), Gene Meneray (CH-LA), Kara Milner (CM-RI), Larry Morrissey (DD-MS), Kristin Pleasanton (DD-DE), Justin Raffa (CH-WA), David Slatery (DD-MA), Encarnación Teruel (DD-IL)

It is with pleasure that the Nominating Committee presents its recommendations for the NASAA fiscal year 2025 chair and directors.

### For three-year terms on the Board of Directors:

- Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director, Massachusetts Cultural Council\*
- Karen Ewald, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
- Sue Gens, Executive Director, Minnesota State Arts Board\*
- Shawn Oban, Chair, North Dakota Arts Council
- Adele Sicilia, Executive Director, New Hampshire State Arts Council

\*These board members will continue their service for a second term.

According to NASAA bylaws, the committee will present these recommendations to the membership for approval during the NASAA business meeting on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Nominating Committee reports that 135 state arts agency executive directors, deputy directors and council chairs from 54 state and jurisdictional arts agencies participated in interviews over the summer. Members expressed strong support for NASAA, and gave thoughtful, specific, constructive feedback on what they need in 2025 to address efforts related to budget constraints, political polarization, advocacy, and staff capacity and transitions. This year's committee focused on nominating people from states that have not been represented on the NASAA board for 15+ years, people holding politically conservative views, people under age 50 and people of color. While there were many more qualified candidates for board service than available seats, NASAA is gratified that so many people are interested in serving on the national board.

On behalf of the membership, the committee honors and thanks departing board members **Alice Bioff (CM-AK)**, **Carla Du Pree (former CM-MD)**, **Christian Gaines (ED-WESTAF)** and **Omari Rush (Former CH-MI)** for their outstanding service to NASAA and to the field.

These board members will continue their terms in 2024:

**Ruben Alvarez, Special Advisor**

Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Phoenix, AZ  
(Board term 2021-2026)

**Karl Blischke, Executive Director**

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Harrisburg, PA  
(Board term 2020-2025)

**Mary Bordeaux, Sicangu Oglala Lakota,  
Council Member**

South Dakota Arts Council  
Faculty, Institute of American Indian Arts  
Rapid City, SD  
(Board term 2020-2025)

**LaVon Bracy Davis, Former Chair**

Florida Division of Arts and Culture  
Orlando, FL  
(Board term 2021-2026)

**Sean Falcon Chandler, Aaniiih, Council  
Member**

Montana Arts Council  
Helena, MT  
(Board term 2023-2025)

**Donna Collins, Executive Director**

Ohio Arts Council  
Columbus, OH  
(Board term 2018-2026)

**Michael Donovan, Executive Director**

Missouri Arts Council  
St. Louis, MO  
(Board term 2024-2026)

**Marcela “Xela” Garcia, Council Member**

Wisconsin Arts Board  
Milwaukee, WI  
(Board term 2024-2026)

**Deonté Griffin-Quick**

Artist and Arts Advocate  
Avenel, NJ  
(Board term 2024-2025)

**Karen Hanan, Executive Director**

Washington State Arts Commission  
Olympia, WA  
(Board term 2020-2025)

**Gabriella Huggins, Executive Director**

Art Access  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(Board term 2024-2025)

**Tasida Kelch, Executive Director**

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts  
St. Thomas, VI  
(Board term 2024-2026)

**Gene Meneray, Council Member**

Louisiana State Arts Council  
New Orleans, LA  
(Board term 2020-2025)

**Ivonne Chand O'Neal, Founder and  
Principal**

MUSE Research  
Silver Spring, MD  
(Board term 2020-2025)

**David Platts, Executive Director**

South Carolina Arts Commission  
Columbia, SC  
(Board term 2023-2025)

**David Schmitz, Executive Director**

Iowa Arts Council  
Des Moines, IA  
(Board term 2024-2026)

The committee thanks everyone who participated in the nominating process this year. Your service to state arts agencies and to NASAA is deeply appreciated.

## NOMINEE BIOS

**Michael Bobbitt**, theatre director, choreographer and playwright, joined the Mass Cultural Council in 2021, becoming the highest-ranking cultural official in Massachusetts. Previously he served as the artistic director of the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, Massachusetts, and of Adventure Theatre-MTC in Maryland. While in Maryland Bobbitt led the organization to be a respected theatre/training company in the D.C. region, as well as a nationally influential professional Theatre for Young Audiences. Bobbitt trained in nonprofit arts management at Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, The National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, and Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion Certification Program. He has served as an associate professor of theatre at both the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Howard University, and has volunteered on numerous nonprofit boards, including Non-Profit Village, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Leadership Montgomery, Weissberg Foundation, Watertown Public Art Commission and ArtsBoston. In 2021 he was selected to join artEquity's second cohort of the BIPOC Leadership Circle.

**Karen Ewald** serves as the executive director of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) in Honolulu. Her work centers on developing and administering the foundation's budget, planning, and staff and board relations. She also serves as the liaison to the Hawai'i State Legislature. Prior to her current role, Ewald served as the director of the Art in Public Places Program and Hawai'i State Art Museum at SFCA, and as programs manager for education and exhibitions at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

**Sue Gens** joined the Minnesota State Arts Board in 2001, serving as director of communication and government relations, and interim executive director, before becoming executive director in 2008. Before joining the Arts Board, Gens was director of external relations for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities); and director of development for United Arts, a federated fundraising organization for small and mid-sized arts organizations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Gens has worked in the Twin Cities nonprofit and public sectors for 30 years; has held management, public relations, marketing or development positions at the Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, COMPAS and the Women's Theatre Project; and has served as a volunteer, consultant or board member with a variety of nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, with degrees in music and arts administration.

**Dr. Shawn Oban, Ed.D.**, has served as chair of the North Dakota Arts Council since 2022. He has lived in the Bismarck community almost his entire life, a product of Bismarck Public Schools' Riverside Elementary, Wachter Junior High, and Bismarck High School, graduating in 1991. Oban currently serves as an elementary principal at Horizon Middle School—as well as all of Bismarck Public Schools—as the fine arts coordinator and earned his doctorate degree in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota in 2015. Outside the school walls, Oban is a working musician, having played around the Bismarck community for the past 25 years with several groups, as a solo act, and for countless charities and events. In 2012, his dedication as a musician, a leader in education, and a fierce advocate for children and the arts was recognized by being named to Bismarck Tribune's "40 under 40." In 2016, he was elected to the Bismarck City Commission and served one term.

**Adele Sicilia** has more than 10 years of leadership experience focusing on program development and creating positive organizational cultures while simultaneously procuring funding and managing budgets exceeding \$50 million. Sicilia brings both management experience and her appreciation of the arts in all of its forms to the position of director of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. During her years providing support to New Hampshire families in her career at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), she identified strategic priorities and developed programming that drew on the arts' ability to transform lives, most notably by creating the Magnify Voices Expressive Arts Contest, which celebrates the creativity of New Hampshire youth and demonstrates the importance of mental health for a child's development. In addition to her work at DHHS, Sicilia has worked as a professional photographer and as a graphic designer. In her spare time, she's often steeped in New Hampshire's wide range of outdoor activities with her family: hiking and camping, attending art shows and outdoor concerts, enjoying our ocean beaches and photographing landscapes.