



To: County Arts Network Members

From: Jay Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs

Re: Public Partnerships Quarterly Update – 2018 Year End

Date: January 11, 2019

Happy 2019! Before we get going in 2019, I wanted to provide you with Americans for the Arts Public Partner activities for the last part of 2018. As always, it was a busy time.

But first, I wanted to make sure everyone took note of where our partners' non-DC meetings will be held this year. If we are coming to your community, expect a phone call or email so we can coordinate the best ways to highlight your local arts scene.

United States Conference of Mayors

Annual Meeting	June 28-July 1	Honolulu, HI
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National Lt. Governors Association

Annual Meeting	July 17-19	Dover, DE
Executive Cmte. Meeting	Dec. 4-6	Alexandria, VA

National Association of Counties

Annual Meeting	July 11-15	Las Vegas, NV
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National Conference of State Legislatures

Legislative Summit	Aug 5-8	Nashville, TN
Executive Cmte./Military Task Force	Oct 10-12	Honolulu, HI

National League of Cities

City Summit	November 20-23	San Antonio, TX
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ICMA (city/county managers)

Annual Conference	October 20-23	Nashville, TN
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Now on to our partner updates for the last few months of 2018.

The United States Conference of Mayors



Mayors attend Burning Man Festival as part of the USCM's Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Committee Meeting.

Americans for the Arts and our longest-running partner, **The United States Conference of Mayors** (USCM) continue to work together to educate and advance the arts and culture in America's cities.

In late August, **Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve**, the Chair of the USCM Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports (TAPES) Committee hosted mayors in Reno to learn and see firsthand how the internationally renowned Burning Man Festival is a place where community-building and art converge in a temporarily-erected, fully functioning city in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. Mayors met with Burning Man city chapters from across the country who contribute to the success of this annual event drawing hundreds of thousands of people. Americans for the Arts [Nina Ozlu Tunceli](#), Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs, accompanied the mayors throughout their two-day visit and served as a resource on other community-based art festivals across the country. Americans for the Arts member, **Alexis Hill**, Reno's Arts, Culture and Special Events Manager, gave the TAPES Committee an overview on how Reno is transforming itself culturally and organized the Mayors behind-the-scenes tour of Burning Man.



“The Blob,” an example of one of many pieces of temporary public art that are erected at Burning Man.

Coming up: Americans for the Arts will host the Mayor’s Arts Breakfast at the USCM’s Winter meeting in Washington, DC January 25, 2019.

National Lt. Governors Association

Americans for the Arts was a sponsor of the 2018 NLGA Winter/New elect meeting which took place in Alexandria, VA November 28-30. It was their largest Winter meeting ever with 16 New Elects and 17 returning Lt. Governors for a total of 33. I had the chance to visit with 15 of the 16 new elects and had very nice conversations with everyone. From this photo, you will notice a great deal of (new) diversity of the Lt. Governors. (Note that not all Lt. Governors who attended the meeting were present for the photo.) Prior to the election, NLGA members were mostly Republican, white and older men. Now, the group is much younger, nearly half women, many people of color, and about 55/45% Democrats/Republicans split.



I provided all 33 Lt. Governors with a packet tailored to their state. Each packet contained a custom welcome letter, AEP5 data, GDP fact sheet, Ipsos Polling highlights (for these 8 states that we oversampled, I provided that full report), Creative Industries Reports, the Social Impact pinwheel, along with a variety of other information. I was quite pleased to see that each Lt. Governor took this information with them and did not leave it on their table with other handouts that they didn't want. On the first day, the Lt. Governors took turns introducing themselves and giving one issue that they want to champion. The top was Economic Development (with a heavy emphasis on rural areas) followed by international trade. While I only heard the arts from one person – Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Economic Development is certainly in our wheelhouse.

The following states were represented: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Delaware Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long will be hosting the Summer NLGA meeting in Dover. She is a nurse by trade and over the two years I have known her has demonstrated her support for the arts, especially around arts and health care. She is committed to having the Arts on the agenda in Dover and making sure the group goes to several cultural institutions.

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

EACH DAY ARTS, COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, PHILANTHROPIC, AND ELECTED LEADERS ARE TRANSFORMING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ARTS.

2018 NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS Honoring the Philanthropic, Community, Arts Leadership, and Artists

2018 BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS TO AWARDS Honoring the Business Community

2018 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS Honoring Arts Leaders and Supporters

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS THANKS ALL WHO SUPPORT THE ARTS AND ARTS EDUCATION IN AMERICA.
VISIT US AT WWW.AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG

2018 New Member & Business Meeting

November 28-30, 2018
Alexandria, Virginia

Visit NLGA online: www.NLGA.us
Follow NLGA on Twitter: @NLGA

Working with Americans for the Arts' Marketing/Communications Department, our Awards Ad was on the back of the NLGA agenda book. Further, NLGA printed off the ad and put it in the Lt Governors' packets. It was well received and again, I think some of the other NLGA sponsors are jealous of Americans for the Arts.

Americans for the Arts was mentioned several times from the podium. NLGA Ex. Director Julia Hurst introduced our public leadership in the arts award to the new elects encouraging them to nominate themselves, others, etc. Julia also mentioned our State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative, the pending \$30,000 Chairman's grant to do three demonstration projects, and the larger \$1.5 million pending the outcome of the three projects.

Grantmakers in the Arts

I was pleased to host **Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser** to speak on behalf of Americans for the Arts and the NLGA at their conference in Oakland, CA. The Lt. Governor spoke about our work on arts in healthcare with our military veterans and their families. It is always nice to have a statewide elected official attend conferences like Grantmakers to show the value Americans for the Arts brings to the dialogue.

Coming up: Americans for the Arts will attend the NLGA March meeting in DC.

National Association of Counties

Our Town Grant

Work continues on the NACo and Americans for the Arts' Creative Counties Initiative. As a reminder, the teams are from: Haines Borough, Alaska; Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Lafayette Parish, Louisiana; Sullivan County, New Hampshire; McKinley County, New Mexico; Athens County, Ohio; and Iron County, Utah.

In addition to NACo Staff, Americans for the Arts Staff, **Ruby Harper Lopez**, Director of Local Arts Advancement and myself continue to work with these counties and will be hosting a second convening in conjunction with NACo's Legislative Conference.

Coming up: NACo will host its 2018 Legislative Conference in DC where Americans for the Arts will participate in their Arts and Culture Committee meeting.

National Conference of State Legislatures

NCSL Fall Forum

Each year, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with NCSL presents a state legislator with our Public Leadership in the Arts Award for state arts leadership at NCSL's Fall Forum. This year we were pleased to present California State **Senator Ben Allen** with this year's award for his support and promotion of arts education in California and nationally. If you would like to read a little more about Senator Allen, please check out our [press release](#). As the Senator's wife gave birth a two weeks before the award was presented, he was unable to accept the award in person but rather sent this [video](#). Americans for the Arts and NCSL are currently working with his office to present his award in person at a suitable event in California.



A group of legislators pose for a photo at the Terrace Stage at the Kennedy Center.

Americans for the Arts was also pleased to assist NLCL in arranging for a VIP tour of the Kennedy Center. NCSL had planned Capitol Hill visits for Wednesday afternoon, but given President Bush's funeral, those plans had to be cancelled leaving a hole in their schedule and they asked if AFTA could arrange for a VIP Kennedy Center Tour. Kennedy Center Senior Vice President of Operations, **Ellery Brown** personally led us on a 90 minute tour of the Kennedy Center featuring many behind the scene peaks. While the actual number of attendees was small (late notice and roads closed), NCSL thought it was a success as those attendees were talking about their experience. That evening, at an invite only reception, multiple NCSL staff came up to me to thank Americans for the Arts for our help.

Coming up: Americans for the Arts will be working with NCSL to get them to highlight arts issues on their web site and blog.

National League of Cities

No major news for this edition for NLC

Coming up: NLC is having their Congressional City Conference in Washington March 10-13. I hope to establish an award honoring a city councilperson in 2019.

ICMA (City Managers Association)

No major news for this edition for NLC

Coming up: I will be working with ICMA to establish an award for a city/county manager.

National Governors Association



Washington State Governor Inslee's original oil pastel on paper, ***Bear With Me.***

A few months ago, the National Governors Association (NGA) reached out to Americans for the Arts to see if we would partner with them in a very unique way. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, who is a respectable amateur painter and NGA wanted to highlight the value of arts education by auctioning off an original piece of artwork by the Governor. At their Santa Fe, NM meeting, Governor Inslee [unveiled](#) the painting, ***Bear With Me.*** NGA designated Americans for the Arts to receive the proceeds from the auction 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." If you would like to make a bid, go [here](#).

Coming up: We will work with NGA to create more opportunities to partner together.

Thanks for reading and never hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.