



To: County Arts Network Members
From: Jay Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs
Re: Public Sector Partnerships Quarterly Update
Date: August 21, 2018

Happy Summer everyone! DC is living up to its reputation as a swamp with temperatures in the 90s and humidity just as high. But, alas, that is what most of the country is dealing with this summer. So, I hope we all get an early and long Fall to make up for the oppressive heat.

While this Summer has been hot, it has also been very busy and productive as we work with our Public Partners to advance the arts and arts education at the federal, state and local levels.

Before I get into our specific activities, I thought I would mention a question that I have gotten a few times over the past couple months: Are there other national organizations like Americans for the Arts that have partnerships with the public sector associations? The short answer is no. While our various partners work with a variety of interest groups, they do not work with any other arts and culture organization. Americans for the Arts is unique at these events surrounded by a ton of pharma and tech organizations.

I guess we are in good company???

Now on to our partner updates which will be a little more detailed than in past reports, and I've highlighted the names of the elected officials I met, so you may spot them easier.

The United States Conference of Mayors

Americans for the Arts Chief Counsel of Government & Public Affairs Nina Ozlu Tunceli represented our members at **The United States Conference of Mayors** (USCM) Annual meeting in Boston this year on June 11-14th. As the liaison to USCM's TAPES Committee (Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports), Nina worked with the new **TAPES Committee Chair Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve** (pictured) and several other mayors in drafting a series of arts policy resolutions that were ultimately passed unanimously by the entire body of mayors.



We encourage our members to review these nine policy resolutions and use them in your city to educate and hopefully encourage Mayors and other city leaders to take more pro-arts positions.

1. [Supporting Cultural Equity](#)
2. [Arts and Business Partnerships Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
3. [Arts and Culture Funding for FY 2019 Federal Appropriations](#)
4. [Art in Public Transportation Projects](#)
5. [National Arts and Humanities Month](#)
6. [Celebrating National Arts in Education Week](#)
7. [Supporting Blue Star Museums](#)
8. [Burning Man](#)
9. [Funding Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum](#)

If you have any questions on USCM activities, please feel free to contact **Nina Ozlu Tunceli**, Americans for the Arts Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs at ntunceli@artsusa.org.

Coming up: Americans for the Arts will also be attending the USCM TAPES summer committee meeting on August 18-29, 2018 in Reno, NV, which will include a special onsite tour of Burning Man. The meeting is being hosted by **Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve** and her staff, including Americans for the Arts member **Alexis Hill**, executive director of the Reno Arts and Culture Commission.

Further, Americans for the Arts will be soliciting nominations in the Fall for the **2019 Public Leadership in the Arts Awards**, which some of the awards will be presented at USCM's Winter meeting in Washington, DC on January 23-25, 2019. Look for our e-mail for nominations for local and state arts leadership awards to large and small city mayors and to a governor. Contact Jay Dick for more information at jay@artsusa.org.

National Lt. Governors Association

NEH DC Meeting



NLGA Chairman, Lt. Governor Matt Michels (left) and Americans for the Arts President and CEO **Bob Lynch** (right) met with acting **National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Jon Peede** (he has since been confirmed by the U.S. Senate) in February to discuss the possibility of NEH funding for the NLGA/Americans for the Arts State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative.

See below for his answer!

Legislative Conference

NLGA hosted its Legislative Meeting here in Washington, DC in March. I am pleased to report several wonderful outcomes.



Second Lady Karen Pence spoke to the group regarding her Arts Therapy Initiative and the value of the arts to society. As when she spoke to USCM at their meeting, she was very eloquent and had a firm understanding of the importance and effectiveness of the arts in helping treat our nation's children to our nation's veterans.



Following her comments, then National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Chair Jon Peede announced that he would commit to funding the NLGA/Americans for the Arts State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative. We anticipate a 2019 launch as we work out the details of this \$1.5 million, three-year program.. Thank you to Chairman Peede for stepping up and funding this important initiative.

Annual Meeting



NLGA hosted its Annual Meeting in New Orleans on June 27-29th and I was able to speak to the group three times.

One, on the first day to present the Public Leadership in the Arts Award. The Award was presented at the stage in the National World War II Museum to **Connecticut Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman**. Helping me to present the award was **Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser**.



Two, on Thursday when they were ahead of the agenda, Lt. Gov. Michels, NLGA's Chairman called me up for an impromptu Arts and the Military Update. The Lt. Governors are still very excited about our partnership and the NEH opportunity.

Three, on Friday for the planed Arts and the Military Update with my PowerPoint which was a brief overview/update and then some information about what is already going on in South Dakota.

At this meeting, Lt. Governor Matt Michels term as chair ended and he passed the gavel to **Montana Lt. Governor Mike Cooney**. Lt. Gov. Cooney is very familiar with Americans for the Arts and has been supportive. He recently called his two Senators to reaffirm our message for increased funding for the NEA/NEH. The new Vice Chair is Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser and the Treasurer is **Delaware Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall Long**. Both Lt. Governors are also very supportive of Americans for the Arts and the arts.

Coming up: There are 36 governors and Lt. Governors up for election in November. NLGA will have a massive turnover among its membership but the Americans for the Arts' efforts will continue to be strong. Their "New-Elect" meeting will be in Old Town Alexandria, VA at the end of November and we are already working with them to make sure the Arts are a central piece of their agenda.

National Association of Counties

Legislative Conference



NACo Arts and Culture Commission Chair Kay Cashion (far right) along with brand new NEA Senior Advisor Tom Simplot (far left), Suzan Jenkins President and CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD and Jay Dick pose with one of several arts and culture posters that were spread through the NACo Conference.



NACo held its Legislative Conference in Washington, DC March 3-7th. Americans for the Arts was pleased to help program the agenda of their Arts and Culture Commission.

Further, since their conference overlapped with Arts Advocacy Day, we were happy to welcome **Commissioner Kay Cashion of Guilford County, NC** to speak at our Congressional Arts Breakfast. Commissioner Cashion is the Chair of the NACo Arts and Culture Commission.

Annual Conference



The Arts and Culture was well represented by the NACo Arts and Culture Commission and NACo staff with six different events at NACo's Annual Conference in Nashville. Commissioner Kay Cashion printed buttons which said, "ask me about \$27.5 billion," a reference to our Arts and Economic Prosperity Report on revenue generated by the arts and culture. The button got a fair amount of buzz and the questions were asked! The other two photos are examples of 2x3 foot posters that were spread around the convention hall highlighting the arts and culture.



A first for NACo, on Thursday NACo hosted a pre-conference Mobile Workshop (think ArtsVenture). The workshop was titled: Building Cultural Resilience Post Disaster. It was one of only 4 or 5 mobile workshops that NACo organized. The workshop focused on how art and culture can be integrated into the post-disaster recovery process and the strategies cultural institutions have taken to rebuild post-disaster, in partnership with county governments. Approximately 50 commissioners and staff went on this three-hour bus/walking tour (in 90 degree heat)! We learned about how public art plays a role, how the arts can be used to draw people back downtown after a disaster, and how the arts can mask things such as flood walls.



Next, the NACo Arts and Culture Commission held its regular meeting which focused on Engaging Artists and Building Community. The meeting started off with a poet reciting a couple of her pieces (another first- an artist performing at the meeting). I then gave a federal update, talked a little about our Social Impact pinwheel and gave them a preview of our public opinion poll. Next, representatives from Metro Arts Nashville spoke on how they are supporting creative placemaking. Finally, Harford County, MD presented on their program which uses the arts to educate young children on the dangers of opioid and heroin addiction. (I will be following up with these folks as this is a fascinating program that I would like to highlight nationally to Americans for the Arts members.) You can see all of the speakers [here](#). We were in the largest breakout room and had over 100 attendees.



We then hosted a breakout session: A How-to Discussion on Main Street Redevelopment Projects using the arts and culture. It was a packed house with 60 plus people and we had to call for more chairs!



I was then proud to represent Americans for the Arts at the NACo Awards Luncheon general session. NACo has 16 awards categories honoring various counties. Americans for the Arts Public Leadership in the Arts Award continues to be the only outside award and it is the only one that isn't just a certificate. I heard a pronounced Ohhhs and Ahhhs when I took the award out of the podium to show the audience. Accepting the award was **Martine Meredith Collier, the Executive Director of the Hillsborough Arts and Culture Commission** assisted by the President and Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties. Martine was very happy and shared with me how she is planning on using this award to help further her efforts starting with re-presenting it on Wednesday at the County Board Meeting. Regarding the NACo awards, they redesigned one of the 16 categories to include the arts, so there were actually two arts awards! My remarks included some of the highlights of the public opinion survey and some AEP data.

Later that evening the NACo Arts and Culture Commission held its evening reception where we represented the awards and welcomed local artists. We were at the Museum 21c and had a wonderful time. In addition to re-presenting the awards, I gave remarks to the group. The event was well attended with various VIPs including **NACo Executive Director Matt Chase**, and Bryan Desloge, the immediate past president of NACo.

Finally, the NACo Arts and Culture Commission hosted a Honky Tonk Hop which was a scheduled tour of some of the bars/music venues on Broadway. Always fun!

Our Town Grant

Work continues on the NACo and Americans for the Arts' NEA Our Town Grant. As I mentioned last time, 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.

After the March 2018 Des Moines Team Conference, teams have identified their goals and are now working on their plans. Americans for the Arts and NACo staff serve as resources to these teams and host periodic check ins. As we get into 2019, we will be able to share some of the results. So, stay tuned.

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



The National Conference of State Legislatures hosted their annual meeting in Los Angeles with around 3,000 attendees. Each year, Americans for the Arts is one of a small number of organizations that are invited to sponsor a lunch for a subset of legislators. This year, the session was on The Arts for Incarcerated Youth. The session was a joint meeting/lunch of the **NCSL Labor and Economic Development Committee** (where the arts are housed at NCSL) and the **Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**. This is the first time Americans for the Arts has been in front of this

committee. Speakers included myself, who gave a 5-minute talk about Americans for the Arts, our Social Impact [pinwheel](#), and a few statistics from our Ipsos Poll. I then turned it over to Jeff Poulin, Americans for the Arts Manager of Arts Education who moderated the panel whose members included: Ayanna Cole from Carnegie Hall, Kalie Shilling from the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network and Amir Whitaker with Project Knucklehead. We were joined by a special guest, Jonathan, who was the subject of a 3-minute video that we played on how the arts had a profound impact upon his young life. When Jonathan was last arrested, at age 12, (he is now 19) he was given access to the arts while in secure detention. As he stated to the group, the arts provided him the ability to focus and find a release for his anger and allowed him to regain control of his life.

Several take-a-ways from the presentation. One, we were in a huge room, seating probably 300-400 people. I warned the panelists that we would not fill the room. I had actually told the panelists to bring 130 copies of any handouts as that would be plenty. I don't know if NCSL knew something I didn't, but we had at least 150 people attend which filled the room. Further, the presentation was a success for

these reasons. One, they paid attention! When the video and Jonathan were speaking, most everyone was paying attention. When the panel was speaking, probably only 10-15% were on their phones at any given time. For legislators, to get an 85% focus rate is incredible. Two, when we opened it up for questions, five people immediately stood up and lined up at the microphone! Three, their questions were specific, meaning they had paid attention and knew what they were talking about. Four, attendees stormed the table when the panel was done and followed the presenters out into the hall. We didn't get free for another 20 minutes or so.

What is also interesting is I proposed this session to NCSL back in January and they actually made Juvenile Justice the main topic for the committee during the entire conference. Lastly, I was also invited to attend the Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety reception where I was able to visit with legislators in a more casual setting.

Art in other places at NCSL's Conference

Art is creeping into other areas of NCSL!



Day One

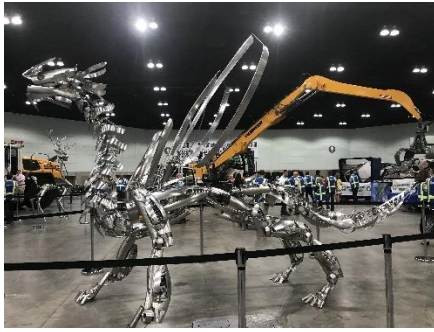


Day Two



Day Three

On the exhibit floor, the American Coatings Association commissioned an artist (see photos) to paint a mural over the course of the conference. Their point was to develop programs to turn vandalism, graffiti and tagging into legal murals, etc. I had a long talk with their Vice President of Government Affairs and we will be talking in soon to connect them with Americans for the Arts and our members as they haven't worked with any local arts groups.



The American Steel Recycling Institute sponsored an all-conference luncheon adjacent to the exhibit hall. As in years past, they brought in a bunch of materials to demonstrate what they do, etc. But, this year, they brought in two pieces of public art and the artist! FYI, I work with the Steel Recyclers at NLGA and NACo. The last photo is with me and the artist. We are both wearing steel hats and I am holding a steel walking stick. The artist, David Han works in recycled materials.

Coming up: Americans for the Arts is currently soliciting [nominations](#) for our 2018 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for State Arts Leadership which will be presented at NCSL's Winter Conference here in DC in December.

National League of Cities



Back in May, the National League of Cities released its annual State of the Cities Report. For the second year, they broke down the top 10 into subtopics. As was last year, Economic Development was the top issue of concern. But, this year, the Arts & Culture went from the fifth subtopic to the second right behind downtown development.

This study again shows that our country's mayors understand the value that the arts and culture bring to a city and its economy.

Coming up: NLC is having their Cities Summit in Los Angeles November 7-10.

ICMA (City Managers Association)

No major news for this quarter for ICMA.

National Governors Association

No major news for this quarter for NGA.

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