



AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS LAUNCHES NEW STATE ARTS EDUCATION INITIATIVE AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Ten State Teams Join Pilot Program to Strengthen Arts through State Policy

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WASHINGTON— August 20, 2014 – Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, announced today that ten state teams would join a three-year pilot program to strengthen arts education by advancing state policy. Announced at the National Conference of State Legislatures’ legislative summit in Minneapolis, the ten states entering the pilot program are:

Arizona	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Wyoming
Arkansas	Michigan	North Carolina	
California	Minnesota	Oklahoma	

“We couldn’t be more excited to welcome these state teams into our new initiative to boost arts education. Because education reforms are primarily tackled at the state and local level, these new partnerships are critical to collectively strengthen the arts in education policy in our country,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “This cohort of states includes team leaders from state agencies, state legislators, advocates and the education policy community—all working together to advance policies to ensure that all of America’s students can have equal access to an arts education.”

Americans for the Arts will support each state team with customized coaching and technical assistance throughout the three-year pilot, via web-based tools and site visits. Additionally, teams will receive a direct grant of \$10,000 each year of the three-year pilot program to support identified goals.

Through the three-year engagement, each state team will work toward specific objectives, resources and outcomes that they seek to impact. With issues ranging from teacher effectiveness to high school graduation requirements to Title I funding to equitable implementation of state policies—the ten states are tackling complicated education policy topics. Participating states vary greatly in size, political landscape, geography, population size, demographics, and arts education conditions.

The ten state teams will convene at the Americans for the Arts' State Arts Action Network's fall meeting in New Orleans in November, in conjunction with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' annual conference. The Americans for the Arts' State Policy Pilot Program initiative provides support to all 50 states in strengthening arts education through state policy – today's announcement deepens the work being done in these pilot states. A full description of the pilot program is available online.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C., and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. www.AmericansForTheArts.org

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