

Interagency Working Group on Arts, Health and Civic Infrastructure (IAWG AHCI)

February 27, 2024

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks and Framing by NEA Chair Jackson and HHS Rear Admiral Reed
- Role of Arts in Health and Civic Infrastructure
- Interagency Working Group Goals, Opportunities, and Commitments
- Discussion among Participants
- Next Steps and 2024 Meeting Schedule

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

1. Andrea O'Neal, Domestic Policy Council
2. Ascala Tsegaye Sisk, NEA, Senior Deputy Chair
3. Ben Stone, NEA, Director of Design and Creative Placemaking
4. Captain Carlos Williams, DoD, Director of National Intrepid Center of Excellence
5. Captain Jennifer Bornemann, HHS, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response
Disaster Behavioral Health Lead
6. Carolyn Bartley, NEA, Strategic Partnerships Manager
7. Chip Walker, Census Bureau, Office of the Deputy Director, Emergency Management, Equity and
Economics
8. Christine Sorensen, USDA Rural Development
9. Clark Wilson, EPA, Office of Water, Urban Designer
10. Claudia Nierenberg, NOAA, Research Division Chief, Climate and Societal Interaction
11. Danielle Nelson, DOT, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Rural and Targeted Programs
12. Donna Faraone, VA, Veterans Health Administration, Associate Director, Office of Patient
Centered Care and Cultural Transformation
13. Erin McDonald, HHS, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, Office of Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion
14. Faith Hall, DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Community Planner
15. Hannah Alpert-Abrams, NEH, Humanities Administrator
16. Jen Hughes, NEA, Senior Advisor to the Chair on Partnerships, Expansion and Innovation
17. Jenn Chang, NEA, White House Liaison and Senior Advisor to the Chair
18. Jennifer Gibson, GSA, Director of the Center of Fine Arts
19. Jennifer Todd, U.S. Department of Education, Director, Well-Rounded Education
20. Joda Thongnopnua, NSF, Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships, Program
Director for the NSF Regional Innovation Engines Program National Science Foundation
21. Julie Johnson, NSF, Program Director
22. Justin Ángel Knighten, FEMA, Associate Administrator of Office of External Affairs
23. Kara McDonagh, DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of
Justice Programs
24. Katherine Bray-Simons, NEA, Special Assistant
25. Katherine Maas, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Chief of Staff
26. Kathryn Isom-Clause, DOI, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development for
Indian Affairs
27. Katie Clark, HHS, Administration for Community Living

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28. Kortne Edogun-Ticey, U.S. Department of Education, Senior Advisor
29. Kristen Harper, HHS, SAMSHA, Public Health Advisor, Office of Recovery
30. Maggie Jarry, HHS, SAMSHA, Senior Advisor, Division of Trauma and Disaster Behavioral Health
31. Marcus Coleman, FEMA, Director, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
32. Melissa Walker, DoD, National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Healing Arts Program Coordinator
33. Patricia Moore Shaffer, NEA, Deputy Director, Research & Analysis
34. Patricia Pinto da Silva, NOAA, Director NOAA Voices and Oral History Archive
35. Rachel Brown, DOI, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management, and Budget
36. Rafael Campos, HHS, Deputy Director of Public Engagement at the Office of the Surgeon General
37. Rhonda Taylor, AmeriCorps, Director of Partnerships and Program Engagement
38. Ron Rutherford, VA, Whole Health Outreach Program Lead
39. Shannon McDevitt, HHS, HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care, Physician
40. Solomon Greene, HUD, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research
41. Sunil Iyengar, NEA, Director of Research and Analysis
42. Tremayne (Trey) Youmans, HUD, Deputy Director, Community Supportive Services
43. Victoria Sams, NEH, Program Officer in Education Programs
44. Yennie Tse, NEH, Assistant Chair for Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives
45. Zachary Schafer, EPA, Office of Water, Senior Advisor

PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

- NEA-funded projects in local communities have demonstrated that artists and cultural institutions can help to: Gather input and engage community; Offer creative ideas for the future; Build momentum to address issues and articulate aspirations; Create inclusive ways to access important services and reach underserved communities; Bring attention to health information, community issues, and places; Support individuals and communities to heal and recover from trauma; and Offer opportunities for connection, belonging, and understanding.
- Previous NEA research has shown that arts attendance is strongly linked to social and civic engagement. For example: Adults who attended art museums or galleries or live performing arts events were far more likely than non-attendees to have volunteered, voted, or taken part in community events; and Socializing with family and friends is the single greatest motivator for those attending arts events.
- IWAG goals are: Support federal agencies in deploying arts and culture to better meet mission; drawing on promising practices, networks, and research; Facilitate and enact peer learning opportunities for understanding why and how best to integrate the arts, culture, and design with health solutions and civic infrastructure; Align and prioritize federal strategies, funding opportunities, and research that lift up and resource emerging practice at the intersections of arts, health and civic infrastructure; Catalyze national, regional and state, and local partnerships to support arts integration with health solutions and civic infrastructure.

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- HHS is committed to: bringing its knowledge, experience, and resources to the table -- including its broad portfolio of research, a far-reaching web of partnerships, and a growing assortment of tools to track measure and evaluate meaningful outcomes in community health.
- NEA is committed to: Conducting Landscape Analysis Report to include existing federal programs and potential opportunities for arts and culture integration; Developing Research Roadmap; Highlighting promising practices; Coordinating public webinars, guest lectures and presentations; Supporting federal agencies in their efforts to integrate arts and culture; Connecting to national, state/regional, local arts and cultural networks
- Opportunities for collaboration via this IAWG include: Exchange promising practices and research; Surface existing opportunities; Expand or clarify funding opportunities and research; Align work via interagency partnerships; Create new arts, culture, or humanities-based programs and research.

DISCUSSION NOTES

Where do you see arts and culture positively impacting the programs, research, and/or policy goals of your agency? How can this working group support your work and the integration of arts and culture to better meet your agency's mission, goals and objectives?

- **Katherine Maas, Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)** is the primary source of federal support for the nation's museums and libraries. IMLS has been investing in research, including some newer initiatives, that can create better evidence of museums and libraries as key components of healthy civic infrastructure. **Developing metrics and policy language** would be interesting for us to pursue together via this IAWG.
- **Donna Faraone, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Patient Center Care and Cultural Transformation** is encouraging partnerships between VA and community organizations to support veterans as they transition from hospital to home, in accordance with VA's "whole health" model. These are not funded partnerships. **Identifying and connecting to sources of funding** could be something to pursue via this IAWG.
- **Kristen K. Harper, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Recovery** is seeing amazing arts-integration work in space of addiction recovery, as well as in the area of serious mental illness. SAMHSA will soon be launching an arts initiative that will showcase artworks by artists in recovery on SAMHSA's website, and will host an event to celebrate the exhibition in September, as part of National Recovery Month. **A landscape analysis will be incredibly helpful** via this IAWG, and interested in ways to cross-pollinate, e.g. present joint webinars and facilitate connections via each other's networks. Identifying **opportunities for braided funding** is another possibility.
- **Captain Jennifer Bornemann, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** is working to integrate/partner with the Creative Forces team in **supporting the emotional and well-being of survivors during the recovery phase** after public health emergencies and disasters.
- **Katie Clark, Administration for Community Living (ACL)**: We support older adults and people living with disabilities and diverse family caregivers, with explicit focus on addressing social isolation. I lead our work around social isolation. We are looking at screening and referral to

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services in community around social isolation. This IAWG can support **developing strategies for identifying the right networks and community partners in arts & culture to deliver support to populations needing social connection.**

- **Jennifer Todd, US Department of Education, Office of Well-rounded Education:** Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, arts and music were added to the definition of “well-rounded education.” We have discretionary grant program, the Assistance for Arts Education, which is the only dedicated federal funding source for arts education at the Department of Education. Our new [Assistance for Arts Education Center](#) provides information about the multiple federal funding resources here at Ed that can be used to fund the implementation of quality arts. Via this IAWG, I’d like to learn more about **what’s happening across agencies for K-12 populations**, and connect those to the Center.
- **Claudia Nierenberg, NOAA Research, Climate and Societal Interactions:** For the first time, we released poetry and community art alongside our most recent [National Climate Assessment](#). Across our programs, our constituents in the field are feeling **need for broader community connection – and innovation and creativity – around solving these issues.** This is underscored by our [oral history work](#). Via this IAWG, we’d be interested in a goal of making **blended research announcements.**
- **Maggie Jarry, Senior Advisor, Division of Trauma and Disaster Behavioral Health, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA:** We work closely with FEMA on two initiatives: Crisis Counseling Program grants, and Resiliency in Communities (ReCAST) grants (following mass-shootings, for example). Interested to look back and **see whether arts and culture has been funded within these portfolios.** I’m also interested in the **role of public museums and memorials in fostering post-traumatic growth** in individuals and communities. I’d like this group to keep **physical spaces**, like formal and informal memorials, on our radar. With regard to climate resilience, and characteristics of that, I’m interested in how **arts and culture plays a role in fostering place, and can be beneficial for mental health as climate drives community migrations.** I’m also interested in **social prescribing**, and how we can bring that into our work on loneliness and building social connection. We know that VA has some social prescribing activities, and we’re also looking at “nature prescribing.”
- **Sunil Iyengar, Director, Office of Research and Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts:** IAWGs like this can be beneficial in helping identify ways we can **leverage existing programs and funding streams toward this work**, and incentivize and promote this way of working, rather than creating new programs.
- **Ben Stone, Director, Design & Creative Placemaking, National Endowment for the Arts:** [Our Town](#) is the NEA’s creative placemaking grant program, and supports many of the kinds of projects you’re describing.
- **Yennie Tse, Assistant Chair of Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH):** NEH has long funded work in this area. [American Tapestry](#) leverages humanities to support democracy. [United We Stand](#), **supports cross-cultural understanding and civic engagement to respond to hate-motivated violence.** [Cultural and Community Resilience](#) addresses climate change and COVID impacts, and safeguards cultural resources. Finally, State and Jurisdictional Humanities Councils are pursuing work that addresses civic infrastructure. For example, the [Rhode Island Civic Health Index](#).

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- **Marcus Coleman, Director, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** We are looking for ways to **adjust existing programs and policies to incorporate more paid opportunities for artists** in helping communities understand risks and recover from disasters. [Fact Sheet](#)
- **Christine Sorensen, USDA Rural Development:** We can offer fertile ground for collaboration with this group. We have invested in **local, place-based staff, who are situated in socially vulnerable, distressed, consistent poverty areas**. We're looking to bring these kinds of resources and opportunities to communities that need it the most. <https://www.rural.gov/>
- **Jennifer Gibson, Director, Center for Fine Arts, General Services Administration (GSA):** GSA has been at this for over 50 years; **commissioning art using appropriated funds** (not grants). Listening to the work being described across agencies on this call, I think of the 1930s, and all the artworks and projects created by artists who were employed or commissioned across communities. There are pathways for federal government to work in this way. GSA is happy to **serve as a resource wherever there is agency support around arts-integration**. <https://art.gsa.gov/>

RESOURCES SHARED

Department of Education

- Assistance for Arts Education Center: <https://aec.ed.gov/welcome>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Inspiration Book: Arts and Experiential Learning https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_inspiration-book-external-audience.pdf
- ArtWorks Program <https://www.fema.gov/node/fema-artworks-program>
- Fact Sheet on Art and Culture - Helping People Before During and After Disasters - https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_art-culture-fact-sheet_012024.pdf

General Services Administration (GSA)

- To see the collection of artwork in federal buildings and on loan to museums around the country <https://art.gsa.gov/>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

- <https://health.gov/news/202303/living-artful-lives-enhance-health-and-well-being>
- **Administration for Community Living (ACL):** ACL's work promoting social connection <https://committoconnect.org/>
- **Center for Disease Control (CDC):** How to Engage the Arts to Build COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccinate-with-confidence/art.html#:~:text=Understand%20the%20value%20and%20synergies,culturally%20responsive%20and%20sustainable%20programming>

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Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)

- Learning Agenda: <https://www.imls.gov/research-tools/data-collection/learning-agenda>
- Pilot National Museum Survey: <https://www.imls.gov/news/institute-museum-and-library-services-announces-plans-launch-national-museum-survey-early-2025>

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- Healing, Bridging, Thriving Summit, co-chaired by National Endowment for the Arts and the White House Domestic Policy Council: <https://www.arts.gov/news/press-releases/2024/groundbreaking-arts-summit-healing-bridging-thriving>
- Arts Participation Patterns in 2022: Highlights from the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts <https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/arts-participation-patterns-2022-highlights-survey-public-participation-arts>
- Artists and Other Cultural Workers: A Statistical Portrait <https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/artists-and-other-cultural-workers-statistical-portrait>
- Creative Forces: <https://www.creativeforcesnrc.arts.gov/our-impact/clinical-research-findings>
- Arts & Substance Abuse Disorders & Pain Management <https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/arts-strategies-addressing-opioid-crisis-examining-evidence>
- Our Town creative placemaking grant program: <https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town/eligibility>

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- United We Stand grant program <https://www.neh.gov/unitedwestand>
- Cultural and Community Resilience grant program <https://www.neh.gov/program/cultural-and-community-resilience>
- Work of AAMC may also be of interest/helpful: <https://www.aamc.org/about-us/mission-areas/medical-education/getting-started-nuts-bolts>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- Fisheries Voices Oral History Archives <https://voices.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
- NOAA Art x Climate, National Climate Assessment <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/art-climate/>

Veterans Affairs

- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival <https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>

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NEXT STEPS

- Save the dates for our future meetings, **10-11:30am ET on May 21, Sept 24, Dec 10.**
- Identify any additional staff best suited to serve as a member of this IAWG and let us know so we can add them to our list.
- Share any feedback/ideas/initiatives between now and when we meet again.

NEA will be reaching out in late March/early April to schedule brief virtual meetings with participating members to scope our work together, review a proposed draft charter for the group, and to build an agenda for our next meeting in May.