

ArtsEd DIGEST



Wednesday, March 25

The State of Early Career Mentorship for Arts Educators

A report by the AEP Partnerships With Higher Education Working Group



Check out our newest report, **The State of Early Career Mentorship of Arts Educators!** This report, by our Partnerships With Higher Education Working Group, explores how mentorship programs can provide a solution for the supports needed for early career arts educators. The report highlights three mentorship programs that align closely with nationwide concerns about teacher shortages:

- **Baltimore Arts Every Day - Early Career Arts Teachers Fellowship**
- **California State University Arts Education ColLab Mentoring Community of Practice**
- **Iowa Model of Excellence Mentoring Program**

In addition to these program profiles, the report also examines effective practices, sustainable supports, policy levers and offers questions for the field to think about when engaging with this work.

Call for Proposal Office Hours

Are you interested in how to craft a **strong proposal** for the Annual Convening? Mary Dell'Erba, AEP assistant director, will virtually host a breakout session design office hours from 3–4 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 1.

In the session, you will learn tips on crafting a competitive breakout session proposal for this year's Annual Convening. At the end of the office hours, participants can ask additional questions about the proposal process. [Click here](#) to register for this workshop!

How Can Governance Affect Education Policy?

Our colleagues at Education Commission of the States (ECS) released its [50-State Comparison on K-12 Governance](#). This foundational resource provides understanding for each states' structure and can help inform education policy research, legislation changes and media reporting. How education leaders make K-12 education policy decisions relies largely on its governance structure. States have many different governance structures that determine if education leadership positions are appointed or elected, what authority that position has, and which entities make key state and local education policy decisions.

To help you get the most out of it, ECS created [a user guide](#) to learn how the state-by-state resource can support the work of policymakers, philanthropic partners, journalists and more.

News From Our Partners and Affiliates

National Coalition of Arts Standards Process Update

The National Coalition of Arts Standards (NCAS) has announced next steps in the [process](#) to update the 2014 [National Arts Standards](#). After receiving over 3,000 responses to a public survey to gain input on the current standards, NCAS is now seeking a [project manager](#) and [review committee members](#) to engage in the next phase of the work. Following the recruitment phase, project personnel will conduct a review of the standards. NCAS assesses the proposed revisions, engages key partners and experts in the field for additional feedback and recommendations, and drafts a revised set of standards.

Applications for the project manager role are due **April 17**.

Leading Arts Administrators of Color Forward

Erika Hawthorne has been appointed Executive Director of the **Arts Administrators of Color** (AAC). In her tenure as interim director from Aug. 2024-Dec. 2025, Erika sustained AAC's mission while expanding its engagement and national reach. As part of its new chapter, AAC has also added a new board co-chair and three new board members. As AAC approaches its 10 year anniversary, it has equipped the field with tools and resources ready to support your work, including:

- **The Greenhouse**: mentorship program
- **The Bridge**: job and opportunity board
- **Affinity Spaces**: connection and relationship building opportunities

Learn more about what AAC has to offer [here](#).

News From the Field

Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion Institute

The **Curriculum in Motion Institute** is a career development opportunity for emerging, mid-career and seasoned choreographers to keep your artistry alive and growing. Each new cohort is built of teaching artists, choreographers and arts educators who want to strengthen their choreographic voice with a community focus. The program supports artist educators in identifying community partners and crafting workshops and residencies rooted in each community's history, issues and questions.

Applications are due **May 18**.

Alaska Statewide Arts and Culture Convergence

The Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Arts & Culture Foundation will host the **Alaska Statewide Arts and Culture Convergence** in Anchorage on April 16-17. Artists, arts and cultural workers, volunteers and board

members, educators, community leaders, advocates and other stakeholders are invited to discuss and converse together about:

- Partnership Activation: Planning for collaboration and resource sharing.
- Operational Flexibility: Building adaptive capacities and sustainable frameworks.
- Community Integration: Developing responsive arts programs for your community.
- Adaptive Practices: Organizations deepen arts opportunities while artists identify pathways to refine their practices.



Check out these ArtsEd Amplified posts to learn more about what our community is working on!

- **From Mystery to Mastery: Why Standards-Based Grading is a Game-Changer for Arts Education** by Erica Turrell
- **Celebrate America's 250 Anniversary at the 2026 World Children's Festival** by Ashfaq Ishaq
- **Building Engagement in the Visual Art Classroom** by Twinimation Studios

Are you eager to share your work with others? **Submit your idea** for ArtsEd Amplified!

Events

- **2026 ABLE Assembly** | Berklee Institute for Accessible Arts Education, April 10-12, Boston, MA
- **Amplify & Ignite: A Symposium on Theatre For Social and Civic Engagement** | American Alliance for Theatre & Education, April 16-19,

2026, New York City, NY

- **2026 AAE Conference** | Association of Arts Administration Educators, May 28-31, Boston, MA
- **2026 National PTA Convention** | National PTA, June 18-21, Pittsburgh, PA
- **International Thespian Festival** | Educational Theatre Association, June 21-26, Bloomington, IN
- **Theatre Education Conference** | Educational Theatre Association, July 22-24, New York City, NY
- **AATE 2026 National Conference** | American Alliance for Theatre & Education, July 29-August 1, Greenville, SC
- **2026 LEAD Conference** | Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability, August 11-14, Philadelphia, PA
- **2026 Biennial NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education Conference** | National Association for Music Education, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, Long Beach, CA

Career Opportunities

FYI: to support and encourage **sustainable hiring practices**, AEP only includes career opportunities that include a salary/compensation in the job posting.

Remote

- **Director of the Center for the Advancement of Art Education** | The Art of Education, Remote

West

- **Resident Artist Educator** | 24th Street Theatre, Los Angeles, CA
- **Senior Manager/Programs Director** | Luna Dance & Creativity, Berkeley, CA

Midwest

- **Director of the Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry and Head of Education** | Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- **Executive Director** | Minnesota Dance Theatre, Minneapolis, MN

- **President & CEO** | Grand Rapids Symphony, Grand Rapids, MI

South

- **Executive Director** | Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas, TX
- **Director of Development & Community Engagement** | Arts Garage, Delray Beach, FL

Northeast

- **Executive Director** | Dancewave, Brooklyn, NY
- **Coordinator, Student & Community Engagement** | Ballet Hispánico, New York City, NY
- **CHIME Associate Director** | Empire State Youth Orchestra, Schenectady, NY
- **Executive Director** | Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh, PA
- **President & Chief Executive Officer** | Handel and Haydn Society, Boston, MA
- **Jock Reynolds Fellowship in Public Programs** | Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- **John Walsh Fellowship in Museum Education** | Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- **Executive Director** | International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, CT
- **Executive Director Brattleboro Music Center** | Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro, VT
- **Executive Director** | Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton, MA

ArtsEdSearch

A 2016 study found that integrating culturally-responsive music not only improved students' connections to their own cultures but also improved teachers' ability to communicate the validity of each music style and performance practice without providing a definition of "correct". **#ArtsEdSearch** | Read more about the study at <https://ow.ly/8jvK50YxMmX>

Have news to share?

Please submit a 100-word summary via **email**.

The Arts Education Partnership is a national coalition of more than 200 education, arts, cultural, government, business and philanthropic organizations. AEP has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education since 1995 and is administered by Education Commission of the States.

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