



## About Americans for the Arts

The mission of Americans for the Arts is to serve, advance, and lead the network of organizations and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support the arts in America.

Founded in 1960, Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education. From offices in Washington, DC and New York City, we provide a rich array of programs that meet the needs of more than 150,000 members and stakeholders. We are dedicated to representing and serving local communities and to creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

## About the Arts Education Program

The Arts Education Program provides leadership development, networking, research, and tools that empower individuals and organizations to create equitable systems and strong policies which strengthen the arts education ecosystem. We seek to unify diverse stakeholders, including arts education professionals, cultural and education sector leaders, the business community, parents, and young people, to create change in their communities, states, and the nation.

## About the State Policy Pilot Program

The State Policy Pilot Program (SP3) was a three-year initiative of Americans for the Arts focused on a three-pronged approach of data collection, technical assistance, and knowledge exchange to work toward influencing implementation of federal mandates or programs at the state level; expanding state support of arts education in policy and appropriations; and impacting local access to arts programs and instruction for students. Through annual grants and technical assistance, Americans for the Arts empowered leaders and stakeholders from ten state teams seeking to strengthen arts education by advancing state policy in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.

Visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/SP3](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/SP3) for more info!

Americans for the Arts would like to thank the following funding partners for their significant support of the State Policy Pilot Program:

**CHARMAINE AND DAN  
WARMENHOVEN**



# STATE POLICY PILOT PROGRAM

## Findings of a 3-Year Initiative In Brief

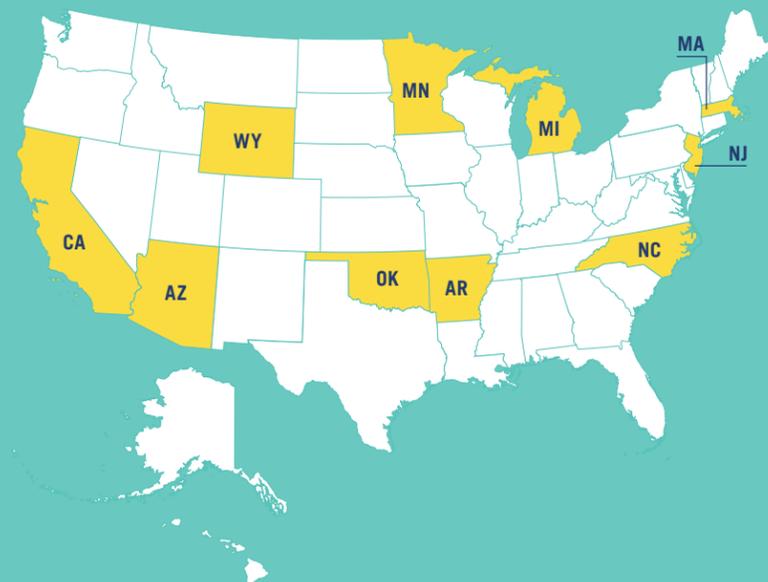


## SP3: Strengthening Arts Education by Advancing State Policy and Advocacy

The State Policy Pilot Program (SP3) was a three-year initiative of Americans for the Arts focused on a three-pronged approach of data collection, technical assistance, and knowledge exchange to work toward achieving the broad goals of:

- influencing implementation of federal mandates or programs at the state level;
- expanding state support of arts education in policy and appropriations; and
- impacting local access to arts programs and instruction for students.

Over the course of three years, the State Policy Pilot Program conducted national research to foster a better understanding of the status of arts education in states across the U.S., provided opportunities for greater networking among various stakeholders involved in state-level policy and advocacy work, and engaged closely with these ten states through convening, annual grants, and technical assistance.



The results of this program include numerous reports, case studies, and a network of state leaders ready to enact policy change and advocacy initiatives to advance arts education across the nation. The intention of these tools and resources is to provide greater policy literacy and understanding of how other states and stakeholders can undertake similar advocacy efforts for statewide policy advancement.

REPORTS	CASE STUDIES	NETWORKING
<p>The State Status Report: A Review of State and Regional Arts Education Studies</p> <p>Gap Analysis: Barriers and Successes of Arts Education Policy Implementation</p> <p>A Decade of Federal Arts in Education Funding: Trends, Analysis, and the Story Behind the First 10 Years</p>	<p>Early stage state project narratives</p> <p>Final case studies for each state, detailing their goals, process, and learnings from the 3-year program</p> <p>Supplemental documents and materials from policy activities around the country</p>	<p>Culminating State Policy Pilot Program Summit in November 2017</p> <p>Co-convening with the State Arts Action Network (SAAN)</p> <p>Launch of the State Educational Policy Network (SEPN)</p> <p>Co-convening annual state policy symposium with the Arts Education Partnership</p>

## Highlight of Findings

From 2014 to 2017, the State Policy Pilot Program fostered a community of learning among stakeholders across the nation and in a 10-state cohort. Throughout the program, four large scale themes were identified for the implementation of successful policy pursuits and advocacy efforts:

- 1. Applying the Federal-State-Local Policy Pipeline:** establishing a pathway to link federal policy frameworks and federal guidance to state-level education policy development to impact local implementation of educational resources.
- 2. Utilizing Data to Support Policy Development and Advocacy Efforts:** research and analysis will both inform and influence the path toward devising an effective policy or advocacy strategy.
- 3. Embracing the Power of Convening:** coming together as diverse stakeholders, whether at the national, state, or local levels is an essential part of relationship building, plan crafting, and policy development.
- 4. Sharing Knowledge Among State Leaders:** documenting and disseminating the good, the bad, and the innovative concepts from your work is key to have ownership and a stake in the shared advancement of the field of arts education.

Several themes were observed from the work with state teams about state level policy development and advocacy infrastructure building:

### NATIONAL THEMES

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	ADVOCACY INFRASTRUCTURE
<p> Sustaining Appropriations for Statewide Initiatives</p> <p> Revising K-12 Arts Education Standards</p> <p> Implementing the Arts Provisions in ESSA</p> <p> Enabling Title I Policy Pathway</p> <p> Building Infrastructure for Stakeholder Engagement</p>	<p> Sustaining Core Leadership</p> <p> Forming Relationships with Coalitions</p> <p> Fostering Allies Among Elected Officials</p> <p> Building an Information Base</p> <p> Crafting Consistent and Effective Message</p> <p> Creating Communication Infrastructure for Grassroots Advocacy</p>

These national themes are further explored in the Summary Findings Report, available online.

In addition to the themes and trends observed, program evaluators—RMC Research— noted the following skills which can serve as advice for additional statewide policy and advocacy initiatives seeking to advance arts education.

- 1.** Build relationships; they are the bedrock of advocacy
- 2.** Be both nimble and persistent; leaders must trust each other and share values and priorities
- 3.** Remain flexible; a spirit of entrepreneurship, adaptability, and opportunity is key
- 4.** Do your homework: the education policy enterprise is complex and layered
- 5.** Don't wait for the perfect information or the perfect team
- 6.** Keep student success in the forefront

This advice serves as a meaningful foundation of any effort, whether federal, state, or local, in advancing arts education through policy and advocacy endeavors.