



## Concurrent Speaker Bios

### Friday Morning Deep Dives



**Kelly Barsdate**  
**Chief Program and Planning Officer**  
**NASAA**

Kelly has worked at NASAA for more than 27 years, helping to make the case for the arts during multiple recessions and swings of the political pendulum. Kelly was the original author of *Why Should Government Support the Arts?* She writes NASAA's Practical Advocate series and has produced numerous research monographs and policy briefs for elected officials and cultural advocates. Kelly oversees NASAA's planning, knowledge services and professional development programs and leads NASAA's "Boot Camp" executive training program for recently appointed state arts agency directors. She has directed NASAA collaborations with the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Endowment for the Arts and other policy partners. Kelly is a contributing editor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society*. She holds an executive certificate of facilitation from Georgetown University's Institute for Transformational Leadership; a Change Leader certification from the state of Utah; and a degree in English from Oberlin College.



**Pam Breaux**  
**President and CEO**  
**NASAA**

Pam joined the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in 2015. As president and CEO, she works with the association's board of directors and staff to advance NASAA's policy and programmatic mission to strengthen America's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Pam has held leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. While in Louisiana state government, she was secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), assistant secretary of CRT (overseeing its cultural development portfolio), and executive director of its state arts agency, the Louisiana Division of the Arts. During her time at CRT, Pam developed and led Louisiana's cultural economy initiative and spearheaded the successful UNESCO inscription of Poverty Point State Historic Site (an ancient Indian site) as a World Heritage site.



**Moira Brennan**  
**Executive Director**  
**MAP Fund**

Under Moira's 12-year leadership, the MAP Fund has dramatically increased the number of proposals reviewed annually and expanded the program's formidable impact on contemporary American performance. She transitioned MAP from an in-house program at Rockefeller Foundation to an independent fund incorporating multiple stakeholders, including the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Moira also designed and administered the Creative Exploration Fund to encourage continued risk-taking among MAP grantees with a record of success, and, with the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, introduced general operating grants for structural support to organizations and independent artists. She represents the program throughout the country as a speaker on the complex interplay between creativity, art, power and money in contemporary culture. Moira sits on the board of Movement Research and Apple Village Arts. A former editor at *Ms.* magazine, she has written about arts and social justice for a variety of publications, including *American Theatre*, *Ms.* and *Community Arts Network*. She is a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts.



**Emilyya Cachapero**  
**Director, Artistic and International Programs**  
**Theatre Communications Group**

Emilyya is the director of Theatre Communications Group's Artistic and International Programs and has been active in the global arts community for more than 30 years. She oversees TCG's grant programs, international programs and selected special projects which include *Beyond Orientalism*, a national initiative to address the use of yellow face, brown face and whitewashing. She also was the associate producer for TCG's Legacy Leaders of Color Video Project. For 11 years, Emilyya was a member of the executive board and council of International Theatre Institute (ITI) Worldwide; as lead producer for ITI's New Project Group (NPG) she produced *House-Home*, an 11-country collaboration that was performed in Xiamen, China in 2011; *IfIDENTITY*, a 10-country collaboration that was performed in Madrid in 2008; and *The Borges Project*, a 10-country collaboration performed in Manila in 2006. In addition to her current responsibilities with TCG, Emilyya was a U.S. national commissioner to UNESCO from 2002 - 2008. She has served as a panelist and consultant for numerous national and regional foundations and arts service organizations. Prior to joining TCG in 1991, she served as general manager for New York's Concordia Chamber Symphony, associate director of the Non-Traditional Casting Project in New York, conservatory administrator for American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and chair of the artistic committee for the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco. She was instrumental in creating the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and was its founding producer for the first two years of the program. Her writing has been published in *American Poetry Review* and several poetry anthologies. Emilyya received her bachelor of arts degree in creative writing from San Francisco State University and an honorary M.F.A. from the American Conservatory Theater. She is an alumna of the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute and the artEquity Facilitators training.



**Jax Deluca**  
**Media Arts Director**  
**National Endowment for the Arts**

Jax oversees the NEA's grant portfolio and field building resources for arts organizations working in film, video, audio, immersive technology and other emerging media forms. The media arts portfolio has grown to include projects that enable the production of new tools, hardware or software by engaging the process of creative coding, open source code development, analog or digital tool making, and audio or visual instrument building for the purpose of creating new art works. An additional area of focus includes advancing career sustainability for artists, which led to the 2016 NEA publication, *State of the Field: Report from the Documentary Sustainability Summit*, with a goal of articulating actionable strategies that could lead toward a more sustainable ecosystem for documentary professionals. Her field experience includes 12 years working at the intersection of arts and community building as a nonprofit administrator, educator and artist. Prior to the NEA, she was executive director of Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center, a media arts professor at SUNY Buffalo State College, and a board member of the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York and the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance.



**Leah Frelinghuysen**  
**President/Founder**  
**Monarchy PR**

A former communications director and spokeswoman for two presidential campaigns, two high-profile broadcast networks and the Department of Homeland Security, Leah has extensive experience in both strategic and crisis communications. She served as deputy chief of staff for the City of New York's employment agency and director of community outreach in the office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, where she served as his primary liaison to the Asian-American community for two years. She started her career at VH1, the cable music channel, helping to launch the VH1 Save the Music program nationally and support other company related prosocial initiatives. For the VH1 Save the Music Program, she helped to raise and distribute \$3 million worth of musical instruments to public schools in more than 30 markets across the country. Leah is a graduate of The Juilliard School and Columbia University in New York City.



**Ken May**  
**Executive Director**  
**South Carolina Arts Commission**

Ken joined the South Carolina Arts Commission in 1985 as a regional arts coordinator and served as director of planning, research and grants and assistant deputy director before being named deputy director in 1995. During his tenure at the Commission, Ken has played a key role in the creation of many of the agency's nationally recognized programs and partnerships in arts education, community design, public participation in the arts, rural arts development and career development for artists. Since becoming executive director in 2010, he has gained a national reputation as a leader in the use of social media for arts advocacy,

decisively overcoming serious threats to his agency during the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions and securing \$1 million in new, recurring state appropriation for arts grants in 2013. Ken has served as a panelist and site visitor for the NEA; a panelist, presenter, consultant and facilitator for national, state and local arts organizations; and a guest lecturer in arts administration programs at the College of Charleston and Winthrop University. He is a member of the board and current treasurer of South Arts. Before beginning his career in arts administration, Ken held positions with ARA Services Magazine and Book Division and McGraw-Hill. Prior to his long sojourn in the realm of day jobs, he worked as a professional musician. Ken received undergraduate and master's degrees in music history and musicology from Florida State University.



**Tiffany Quivers**  
**Leadership Development Consultant**  
**Q&A, LLC**

Tiffany is an educator, speaker, program designer and curriculum developer with more than 15 years' experience in training and leadership development. Each course she teaches, program she designs or curriculum she writes is geared toward helping people tap into their unlimited potential. Tiffany works with individuals, teams and organizations to think beyond their present circumstances and create

the conditions for maximum growth.



**Kiran Singh Sirah**  
**President**  
**International Storytelling Center**

The International Storytelling Center (ISC) is an educational and cultural institution dedicated to enriching the lives of people around the world through storytelling. ISC organizes the world's premiere storytelling event, the National Storytelling Festival, and supports applied storytelling initiatives across a wide variety of industries. Prior to his appointment at ISC, Kiran developed a number of award-winning peace building programs in cultural centers across the U.K. As an artist, folklorist, teacher and advocate for social justice, he has used the power of human creativity to establish dialogue. An advisory

member to UNESCO and a Rotary World Peace fellow, he has developed educational programs and publications, articles, talks and conference papers on interdisciplinary approaches to relationship building in communities and around the globe. In 2017, Kiran was awarded the "Champion of Peace" recognition at the culmination of Geneva Peace Week, during Rotary U.N. Day at United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in recognition for his work to advance the arts of storytelling within the arenas of global development and peace building. Kiran firmly believes storytelling not only has the power the enrich lives, but it also holds the key to building a better world.

## Saturday Morning Briefing Sessions



**Mike Bartlett**  
**Senior Policy Analyst**  
**Economic Opportunity Division**  
**National Governors Association Center for Best Practices**

Mike serves as an advisor to senior state officials for postsecondary education, focusing on talent development strategies, and aligning education and work-force development. Mike has published numerous articles and reports on these topics, and regularly presents to state officials and national organizations on sector based industry engagement strategies, work based learning and apprenticeship, veterans' occupational licensure, and aligning education and work-force development systems. Mike's writing has been published by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Reserve, The Council of State Governments and others. Prior to joining NGA, he served as policy advisor to Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, responsible for implementing the governor's initiatives on such topics as childhood nutrition, school safety, health care reform, tax reform and work-force development. Mike holds a master's degree from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kentucky.



**Kaitlyn Berle**  
**Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist**  
**Wisconsin Arts Board**

Kaitlyn is a public folklorist based in Madison, Wisconsin, where she directs the Folk and Traditional Arts Program at the Wisconsin Arts Board. In addition to administering traditional arts grants, providing support for Wisconsin's traditional artists and cultural communities, and developing special initiatives and documentation projects related to the state's diverse folklife, she also manages the agency's Woodland Indian Arts Initiative and Arts Education grants programs. Kaitlyn holds an M.A. in public-sector folklore from Western Kentucky University and a B.A. in political science and English, with an emphasis on folklore studies, from the Ohio State University. She has worked with state, regional, and nonprofit folk arts and folklife organizations, including the Mississippi Arts Commission, Community Partnerships RC&D, OSU's Center for Folklore Studies and the American Folklore Society and has extensive fieldwork, archival and programmatic experience.



**Teresa Bonner**  
**Executive Director**  
**Aroha Philanthropies**

Teresa brings more than 30 years of professional experience in philanthropy, foundation and nonprofit leadership to her role as executive director of Aroha Philanthropies. A principal in Family Philanthropy Advisors, Teresa manages philanthropic programs and initiatives for a select group of foundations across the country. She previously served as director of the U.S. Bancorp Foundation, with \$20 million in foundation grant making annually; the Piper Jaffray Foundation; and two nonprofit organizations. She is a former attorney.



**Anne Bown-Crawford**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Arts Council**

Anne is the executive Director of the California Arts Council and a founder and the current Past Chair of CREATE CA, a collective impact organization in California whose mission is to rethink and create an educational environment for all California students. She is also one of the authors of the state's Blueprint for Creative Schools. Anne was recently a teacher for almost four decades on a secondary level and was the founder and director of two model demonstration sites in exemplary curriculum for the California Department of Education. She is an Adobe Education Leader and a Stanford FabLearn Fellow. Anne holds a B.F.A. in design from Northern Illinois University and an M.A. in education from the University of California, Berkeley, and did M.F.A. work at California College of Arts.



**Sue Gens**  
**Executive Director**  
**Minnesota State Arts Board**

Sue has served as the Minnesota State Arts Board's director of communication and government relations (2001-2008) and its interim executive director (2008-2009), and has been the agency's executive director since 2009. Before joining the Arts Board, Sue was director of external relations for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities). Previously, she served as director of development for United Arts, a federated fundraising organization for small and mid-sized arts organizations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Sue has worked in the Twin Cities nonprofit and public sectors for more than 30 years, holding management, public relations, marketing or development positions at the Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, COMPAS and the Women's Theatre Project. Sue has served as a board member of a number of Minnesota nonprofits including the Minnesota State University Moorhead Alumni Foundation, Airport Foundation MSP and Minnesota Environmental Fund. She has been a presenter for Grantmakers in the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Illinois Governor's Tourism Conference, Metropolitan State University, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Leadership program. Sue is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, with degrees in music and arts administration.



**Abby Kiesa**  
**Director of Impact**  
**The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University**

Abby joined CIRCLE in 2005, where she serves as liaison to practitioner organizations across the country to maintain a conversation between research and practice. She also provides leadership for CIRCLE's election strategies as well as communications, and works on other research and evaluation projects, including two major national studies: Millennials Talk Politics: A Study of College Student Political Engagement and "That's Not Democracy": How Out-of-School Youth Participate in Civic Life and What Stands in Their Way. In

addition to CIRCLE's youth engagement work, Abby also engages in research related to Tisch College's civic renewal efforts. She is versed in the wide range of youth civic and political engagement efforts and practice, as well as topics such as youth political engagement and the democratic work of higher education. She is particularly interested in topics such as the infrastructure that supports civic life and democracy, as well as the relationship between inequality and impact as related to democratic participation. Abby holds an M.A. from the University of Maryland. Previous to her work at CIRCLE, Abby organized students across the country through Campus Compact as part of a national campaign to increase youth involvement in public life. Her writing on youth political engagement has been featured in several publications; and she coedited the book *Raise Your Voice: A Student Guide to Making Positive Social Change*. Abby serves on the board of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement and on the steering committee of the American Democracy Project (an initiative of AASCU).



**Suzanne Lynch**  
**Director of Marketing and Development**  
**Tennessee Arts Commission**

Suzanne joined the Tennessee Arts Commission in 2013. Her position includes agency brand development, the Specialty License Plate Program promotions and agency communications. Prior to joining the Tennessee Arts Commission, Suzanne was the creative manager for Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee. Before moving to Nashville in 2011, Suzanne was the creative director for her own business, Message Brand Advertising, in Ithaca, New York. She was also an assistant professor in the Integrated Marketing Communications Degree Program at the Park School of Communications, Ithaca College. Previously, Suzanne was an art director for several advertising agencies in New York City and worked on national accounts such as Verizon Wireless and Duncan Hines. Suzanne has a B.F.A. in graphic design from Ball State University and a M.A. in advertising design from Syracuse University.

**L. Saunders McNeill**  
**Community and Native Arts Program Director**  
**Alaska State Council on the Arts**

Saunders has served as the Alaska State Council on the Arts's (ASCA) Community and Native Arts Program director since 2000. She is responsible for statewide programs including Alaska's Folk and Traditional Arts Infrastructure, Alaska's Living Cultural Treasures, Community Arts Development, Alaska Native Artists Professional Business Development, and Alaska Native Creative Leader Development and ARTShop. She administers the Silver Hand Program, the longest-established native artist and arts authentication program in the nation, which has served more than 2,500 Alaska Native artists since its inception in the late 1970s. Saunders works with Alaska's leading indigenous and cultural institutions, Alaska Native creative-sector leaders, and Alaska Native nonprofit corporation funders to advance the interests of Alaska Native artists and communities. *Alaska's Living Cultural Treasures: A Gift for Our Next Generation* and *Alaska Native Artist Resource Workbook*, which support rurally based Living Cultural Treasures intensive residencies that advance the intergenerational transfer of Alaska Native customary skills and creative practices, are publications developed under her administration. She develops artist professional business development curriculum to

instruct artists and provide local experts with content for regional training statewide. She works with multiagency partners to provide direct and ongoing creative business development instruction to incarcerated artists. Saunders serves as ASCA's ADA coordinator, is a member of ASCA's Arts Education Advisory Committee, and is working with ASCA staff and statewide colleagues to develop ASCA's Youth Cultural Heritage Program.



**Andi Mathis**  
**State & Regional Specialist**  
**National Endowment for the Arts**

Andi has held several positions in the Partnership office, where she now serves as the State & Regional Program Specialist. She notes that it has been gratifying to work overtime with a set group of applicants—the state arts agencies and regional arts organizations—as it supports development of strong working relationships with the entire field. Early in her career, Andi worked in the Endowment's Grants Office and Office of Management Analysis, and consulted independently in the arts. She received a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.A. in community arts management from the University of Illinois.



**Josy Miller, Ph.D.**  
**Arts Education Programs Specialist**  
**California Arts Council**

Josy is the arts education programs specialist for the California Arts Council. At the Arts Council, she manages six grant programs including JUMP StArts, the agency's program that supports arts residencies for system-engaged youth. She is the cochair of the Arts Education Working Group for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and convenes that organization's subcommittee on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access in the Arts. A theatre director and scholar, she received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of California, Davis. Josy is a recipient of the Center for Cultural Innovation's Emerging Arts Leader Award, the Mellon Foundation Teaching/Research Fellowship in Early Modern Studies and the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts's Major Grant Award (for her production of *The Dogs of War* at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Her article "Performing Collective Trauma: 9/11 and the Reconstruction of American Identity" appears in the collection *History, Memory, Performance*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2015. She is coeditor, with Peter Lichtenfels, of *Shakespeare and Realism: On the Politics of Style*, forthcoming from Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.



**Ashley Minner**  
**Resident Folklorist, University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

Ashley is a community based visual artist from Baltimore, Maryland. An enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, she has been active in the Baltimore Lumbee community for many years, and regularly visits communities throughout the United States, South America and Latin America. Ashley works as a folklorist for the Maryland Traditions Program of the Maryland State Arts Council and is a part-time lecturer in the Department of American Studies at

University of Maryland Baltimore County. She is also part-time faculty in the Masters of Fine Arts in Community Arts Program at Maryland Institute College of Art. Ashley coordinates Artists U Baltimore, a grass-roots planning and professional development program run by and for artists. She is a doctoral candidate in the Department of American Studies at University of Maryland College Park, where she is studying folklore, museum scholarship and material culture, and relationships between place and identity. Ashley was a 2016 Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellow with the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in New York City. Her work has been supported by Alternate ROOTS, Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation), the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Maryland State Arts Council, Kresge Arts and the Warnock Foundation.



**Patricia Mullaney-Loss**  
**Research Associate**  
**NASAA**

Patricia joined NASAA in 2016 as research associate. She collects information on state arts agency funding levels and sources through the State Arts Agency Revenues survey, and manages NASAA's historical funding database. Patricia also designs and conducts many of NASAA's on-line surveys, including the Staffing and Compensation Survey and Membership Opinion Poll. She works with the Research Department to create engaging and informative data visualizations for NASAA reports and member requests. Patricia previously worked at

International Arts & Artists conducting research and creating new programming. She graduated with a master's degree in public policy from the University of Maryland, after completing bachelor's degrees in government and dance at the same institution. While studying, she worked at the U.S. Department of State and the Office of Congressman Keith Ellison (MN). Fluent in Italian and proficient in German, she was a business manager and counselor at Concordia Language Villages, which offers programs in language and cultural immersion. Patricia dances professionally in the D.C. area and has recently had the privilege of performing at Dance Place, the Kennedy Center, American Dance Institute and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.



**Clifford Murphy**  
**Folk & Traditional Arts Director**  
**National Endowment for the Arts**

Clifford was appointed the director of Folk & Traditional Arts at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2015. He oversees the NEA's grant making in folk and traditional arts, and manages the NEA National Heritage Fellowships. Clifford was previously the director of Maryland Traditions, the folklife program of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). In 2011, he launched the state's first Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival, and also managed the Maryland Traditions

grant program supporting apprenticeships and projects. He produced the state's annual Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts (ALTA) Awards. In 2014, Clifford helped to establish a partnership with the University of Maryland Baltimore County to bring MSAC's 40 years of folklife archives into the university library system, making the collection available to the public. Clifford holds a doctorate in Ethnomusicology from Brown University and has authored numerous publications, including a forthcoming book on country music traditions of the Mason-Dixon Line. An active member of the American

Folklore Society and the Society for Ethnomusicology, Clifford has coproduced a recurring radio program on Maryland folk traditions for WYPR Maryland Public Radio in Baltimore.



**Justin Nigro**  
**Operations & Public Affairs Director**  
**Ohio Arts Council**

Justin has more than a decade of experience in communications, public policy and finance, and legislative relations and advocacy. He started his career as a Legislative Service Commission fellow in the Ohio Senate, eventually becoming a senior legislative aide. After serving the Ohio treasurer and Ohio attorney general, he returned to the senate as the chamber's minority finance director. In this role, he performed fiscal and policy analysis concerning state revenues and expenditures; agency budgets, programs, and procurement; and economic matters. In 2012, Justin moved to Chicago to become the executive director of We Are One Illinois, coordinating and guiding the coalition's efforts as Illinois policymakers weighed changes to public retirement systems. Upon returning to Columbus in 2014, Justin joined the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), where he manages board, legislative, intragovernmental, media and external relations; develops and promotes the agency's state budget request; directs special projects; and works collaboratively to shape the OAC's strategic plan, work force and on-line presence. Originally from Ashtabula, Justin graduated summa cum laude with honors and distinction from Miami University, earning a bachelor's degree in international studies and political science.



**Molly O'Connor**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Oklahoma Arts Council**

Molly joined the Oklahoma Arts Council in 2006. In her role, she oversees the Oklahoma Arts Conference, Leadership Arts, and the new Folk and Traditional Arts program. Molly previously worked for the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, where she managed the performing artist rosters and directed events such as the WinterTales Storytelling Festival, Opening Night and Twilight Concerts. She is a multidisciplinary artist whose work combines creative writing, storytelling, comedy performance and visual art. Molly holds a bachelor of fine arts in 3-D design from the University of Oklahoma.

**Maura O'Malley**



**CEO and Cofounder**  
**Lifetime Arts**

Maura works to fulfill Lifetime Arts's mission to improve the quality of life for older adults through arts education and leads the development of national programming models, professional development programs and pioneering resources for Creative Aging stakeholders. Named a 2017 Influencer in Aging by PBS Next Avenue, Maura promotes the field of Creative Aging as a speaker and presenter at major national conferences and symposia, including the American Library Association, Grantmakers in Aging, Grantmakers in the Arts, National Guild for Community Arts Education and American Society on Aging. With more than 30 years' experience in arts management, including program design and implementation, arts education,

development, and community cultural work, she has informed policy and created innovative programming for adults and children with many premiere arts and educational organizations including the New York City Department of Education, Studio in a School Association and Young Audiences. A member of the National Advisory Board Teaching Artists Guild, Maura graduated from Pratt Institute with a bachelor of fine arts in painting and earned a master of public administration in arts policy and planning from New York University.



**Paul Pietsch**  
**Research Manager**  
**NASAA**

Paul leads NASAA's qualitative research efforts. He focuses on programmatic and policy trends in state arts agencies and state legislation, reporting on them in policy briefs and strategy samplers. He also highlights innovative state arts agency practices in the monthly State to State column in NASAA Notes. Paul has researched programs and policies supporting arts and military, creative aging, arts in health care, cultural districts, the creative economy, public art, arts education, arts based rural development, and diversity, equity and inclusion in the arts, among other areas. Prior to joining NASAA in 2012, Paul managed the research efforts of the Association for Demand Response and Smart Grid as well as those of the Demand Response and Smart Grid Coalition. He has worked as a writer and fundraiser at Harvard University, Dartmouth College and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Paul is an artist with an M.F.A. and a graduate certificate in arts management from American University in Washington, D.C. He has contributed to Washington's arts community through teaching, running figure-drawing groups, and serving on the Artists' Advisory Council of the Washington Project for the Arts and the board of directors of Art Enables, an art gallery and vocational arts program for artists with disabilities.



**Sally A. Rood**  
**Senior Policy Analyst for Economic Development**  
**Economic Opportunity Division**  
**National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices**

Sally serves as a senior policy analyst in the Economic Opportunity Division of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices, where she focuses on strategies for economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation, and work-force development; place based initiatives; and use of data for policymaking. Prior to NGA, she was a senior policy analyst with SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute), where she managed projects evaluating state initiatives and STEM education programs. She also did strategic planning and designed programs for overseas research and education programs. Previously, she was associate director for NASA's National Technology Transfer Center; Washington representative for the Federal Laboratory Consortium; and interim executive director for the National Academy of Sciences's Federal Demonstration Partnership. In addition to these positions, Sally has served as adjunct faculty for Virginia Tech. She has consulted with diverse organizations including the National Association of Counties, the World Bank, and the Science and Technology Policy Institute. Sally is an elected fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences and recipient of an Outstanding Service Award from the Federal Laboratory

Consortium. She holds a Ph.D. in public administration and public affairs; an M.A. in science, technology and public policy; an M.B.A. with a major in information technology; and a B.S. in management.



**Ryan Stubbs**  
**Senior Director of Research**  
**NASAA**

Ryan directs NASAA's research team to provide high-quality information for the benefit of state arts agencies and the arts and culture field. His areas of expertise include public funding for the arts, state policy and the creative economy as well as state arts agency funding, services, operations and grant making. He oversees a research portfolio that includes dynamic data visualization tools, field surveys and research customized to the needs of state arts agencies.

Ryan represents state arts agencies and NASAA at state, regional and NASAA research forums and serves as NASAA's primary research liaison to federal agencies, foundations, consultants and scholars conducting research on public support for the arts. Ryan has more than 10 years of professional experience in the field of arts research. Prior to joining NASAA, he served as the director of research for the Western States Arts Federation, where he specialized in analyzing state and local creative economy data, implemented web based research technology and launched an initiative aimed at supporting independent music. Ryan has experience in state government as a capital construction analyst for the Colorado Department of Higher Education and in economic development as a business manager for Adams County, Colorado. He holds master's degrees in public administration and urban and regional planning with an emphasis in economic development planning from the University of Colorado, Denver. Ryan serves on the board of directors for his local community development corporation and is on the steering committee for the Cultural Research Network.