

# 2020 Arts Congress Schedule

Please Note: All workshops will be held in the Senate Building

Event	Location	Time
Registration	House Lawn	8:00 AM
Performance by Aaron White	House Lawn Stage	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Welcome/Introduction	House Lawn Stage	8:15 AM
Team Meetings Begin	Legislator Offices	9:00 AM
Enriching Life Through Art – Arizona Veteran Art Program	Hearing Room 2	9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Arizona Commission on the Arts: Investing for Impact	Hearing Room 109	9:15 AM & 11:15 AM
Arts Education: Mapping Access, Charting Opportunity	Hearing Room 1	9:30 AM & 10:15 AM
Overview of Legislative Session	Hearing Room 2	9:45 AM & 11:05 AM
Poetry Reading by Rosemarie Dombrowski	House Lawn	11:30 AM
Lunch Begins	House Lawn	11:30 AM
Gallery Introductions	House or Senate Gallery	1:00 PM
Check Out Begins	House Lawn	2:00 PM
Social Hour	AZ Wilderness Brewing Co.	3:00 PM

If you have questions, look for a **Master of Arts Congress**.  
They'll be wearing red stickers

Get Social With Us!

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# Talking Points

*Arts Advocates will be sharing these talking points with their State Legislator at Arts Congress 2020*

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## **The Background**

You may recall that last year the budget negotiated between the Legislature and Governor provided a \$2 million allocation to the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Arizona's 53-year-old state arts agency. We deeply appreciate the bipartisan legislative effort that resulted in this FY20 allocation. These funds have been vital to increasing and expanding the community and economic benefits of the arts to cities and towns across Arizona.

## **The Ask**

We respectfully ask that you support the inclusion of a \$3.5 million allocation for the Arts Commission as you negotiate and take action on the FY21 budget.

## **The Rationale**

### *Solid Support*

*3.5 million for the Arts Commission in FY21 will:*

- Preserve programs that change and save lives, including arts for children, veterans, and seniors
- Continue progress into rural areas including expanded programs in 12 counties, from FY20
- Restore grant awards to near pre-recession funding levels

### *Consistent Support*

We ask that this allocation come from the state's General Fund or another designated source on which the Arts Commission may depend from year to year. Steady and consistent investment is required to:

- Sustain and increase community impact
- Strategically plan for the future
- Attract and maintain private partnerships in service to Arizonans

### *Reliable Support*

Monthly receipts from the Arts Commission's primary funding stream, the Arts Trust Fund, have seen a sharp decline. Managed by the Corporation Commission, the Arts Trust Fund collects a portion of Corporation Commission filing fees.

**(We encourage your team of advocates to use examples of the Arts Commission's work from their own communities to emphasize the need and value of consistent funding for the agency.)**

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# What To Do When You Meet Your Legislator

## How to plan your conversation with your legislator(s)

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Briefly introduce each Team Member.

### **Share talking points for Arts Congress.**

Share a brief personal story about the impact of the arts in the legislator's district; try to pair it with data about arts in the district.

Allow the legislator to respond to the personal information about arts in the district and note if they have any personal connection with the arts.

### **Take notes on what is said during the meeting and the conversation.**

Give the Legislator their packet and point out the reports from the Arizona Commission on the Arts on grants and impact of the arts on Arizona.

Be respectful if the legislator expresses any reservation about arts funding, or even suggests that they are opposed to it. Simply thank them for their time and assure them the Arizona Commission on the Arts is making a difference in your community, and arts programs it supports are an important part of your community life. (Please avoid any confrontational behavior.)

If possible, take a picture with your legislator of or your group meeting and share it on any social media platform using the hashtag #ArtsCongress.

### **Thank the Legislator for their service to Arizona.**

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# 2020 Arts Congress Workshop Descriptions

## Enriching Life through Art- How art can improve and extend life

What we have learned from veterans, traumatic injuries are not restricted to only veterans, but a large civilian population is also struggling with some of the same symptoms. From children to seniors, all genders and economic levels may have experienced a traumatic event causing some form of visible and invisible wound. These wounds can cause anxiety, fear, anger, loneliness, depression and often lead to drug and alcohol dependency. Any one symptom can be a pathway to suicide!

According to statistics from the U.S Department of Veteran Affairs, “post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) affects about 20 percent of the estimated 600,000 plus veterans currently living in Arizona. Revealing about 55 suicides for every 100,000 veterans, surpassing the national average of 38 suicides per 100,000 veterans. More support services are needed to help both veteran and civilian population. The arts can be part of the solution!

The Veteran Art Program began with the determination and passion to help reduce the military’s suicide rate of 22 per day! The program is free and managed by Alliance artist volunteers, guided by our mission to offer a variety of quality art instructions, compassion, and respectfully say THANK YOU. Art supplies, food, friendship are provided freely to all attending veterans.

### **Presenter; John Fontana, Alliance Founder, Veteran Outreach Manager**

The Arizona Art Alliance was founded in 2000, as a non-profit, all-volunteer visual art organization dedicated to giving back to the community. Its membership of 20 visual art guilds throughout the valley have a long history of sharing their love of art with Arizona’s disadvantaged children, adults and aging population. The free art programs have provided enjoyment, hope and emotional stabilization to a wide range of Arizonans. Fontana initiated and co-developed “The Art of Healing” veteran program in 2015 with the objective; to address reducing veteran suicide by providing therapeutic art instructions free to veterans. Starting with 15 veterans, the program has served over 5,500 veterans in 10 co-ed locations throughout the valley, including two all Women Veteran Art Programs.

Vietnam Veterans of America Achievement Medal  
Veteran Heritage Project, recorded in the Library of  
Congress Achievement Award  
“Enriching Life through Art”, not a just a title, but a passion!

Arizona Veteran Hall of Fame  
Alex Simons Lifetime  
ASID Enhancement of the Arts award

## Overview of the 2020 Legislative Session

This session will give an overview of what we can expect to see in the Legislative session. It will cover the key issues being discussed at the Capitol along with what topics may have major impacts on the State budget.

### **Presenter: Todd Baughman, Lobbyist, Policy Development Group**

Todd joined PDG in 2007 and primarily serves as a lobbyist and strategist for PDG’s clients at the State level, including Arizona Citizens for the Arts. He carries a genuine passion for the political process and the people involved. In addition to being the lead lobbyist for several clients, Todd assists with virtually every one of the firm’s legislative efforts and coordinates the day-to-day legislative agenda for PDG’s clients. Additionally, he actively participates in non-legislative efforts, predominately involving public involvement and campaign initiatives.

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# 2020 Arts Congress Workshop Descriptions

## **Arizona Commission on the Arts: Investing for Impact**

According to recent national polling, Arizonans have an overwhelmingly positive attitude toward the arts, citing the positive impact the arts have on personal and community well-being, the education of young people, and the state's economy. In this session you'll learn about some of the ways the Arizona Commission on the Arts ensures access to arts experiences that support and extend these benefits to all Arizonans.

### **Presenter: Steve Wilcox, Communications Director, Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Steve Wilcox is Communications Director at the Arizona Commission on the Arts and an occasional theatre artist. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre from Arizona State University, he co-founded Space 55 Theatre Ensemble in downtown Phoenix, acting as managing director and resident director of the small, nonprofit theatre company through its first 5 years. Wilcox previously worked for the State of Arizona's Department of Economic Security and Industrial Commission and spent two years in the private sector, managing marketing and communications for a Scottsdale-based tech start-up, before returning to the public sector and the Arts, joining the Arts Commission's staff in 2013. In his free time, Wilcox does crosswords puzzles and photographs his cat while it's sleeping.

## **Arts Education: Mapping Access, Charting Opportunity**

Who has access to arts education in Arizona schools? A comprehensive tool prepared by Quadrant Research compiles data self-reported through the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) data systems about arts course offerings and participation in state schools. A partnership between ADE and the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the dashboard allows you to search arts course offerings and enrollment by discipline, county, district, & school. Want to know the percentage of students enrolled in dance courses in your county? The dashboard can tell you that! Want to know what arts disciplines are offered at your school? The dashboard can tell you that! Come explore ways to utilize this tool. Get a clear picture of arts education in the state. Imagine possibilities for leveraging this information to advance universal access to art education for all our Arizona students.

### **Presenters: Dustin Loehr, Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A, Arizona Department of Education Haley Honeman, Title IV-A Arts Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education Elisa Lucía Radcliffe, Arts Learning Manager, Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Dustin Loehr, an Arizona native, was appointed Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) in May 2018. There he oversees all program aspects of Well-Rounded Education, Safe & Healthy Students, and Digital Literacy, and serves as the director for the Office of Arts Education, Office of Safe & Healthy Students, and Office of Digital Literacy. Dustin also works with Title I communities as a member of ADE's ESSA Implementation Committee and the state's Title IV-A Liaison to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Loehr also holds a M.A. in Humanities with an emphasis on Expressive Arts and Education from Prescott College (B.A., ASU; A.A., Mesa Community College). He's contributed to numerous texts on the art of storytelling and data literacy in arts education, and he serves on the Board of Directors for State Education Agencies Directors of Arts Education.

Haley Honeman relocated to Arizona in 2013 to study for a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Youth and a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at ASU. She's been an educator for 15 years in theatre and arts integration in Minnesota, Yucatan, MX, and Arizona. She joined the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) as the Title IV-A Arts Education Specialist in September 2018 after five years as a teaching artist in Arizona with nonprofits including Childsplay, Rising Youth Theatre, and Phoenix Center for the Arts. She is also a community-based arts practitioner working on the topics of well-being and stigma in partnership with community mental health organizations. Previously, she also spent four years in Merida, Mexico, using the arts and project-based learning to facilitate language learning. A native of rural Minnesota, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a minor in Spanish Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Elisa Lucía Radcliffe earned a BFA in dance performance from Arizona State University and has been a prominent member of the Phoenix dance community in the years since. Elisa is currently the Arts Learning Manager at the Arizona Commission on the Arts, overseeing the Arts Commission's comprehensive slate of Arts Learning grantmaking, programs, partnerships, and strategic initiatives. Prior to working at the Arts Commission, Elisa worked as a dance educator for twelve years in the Phoenix Union High School District. Through their involvement in public education, they've witnessed firsthand how important access to quality creative and cultural activities are for students. They have a strong belief that art can and should be grounded in the community it serves. Elisa strives to strike a balance between commitment to community and social justice and increasingly sees a strong relationship to one's home, identity, and family as a source of purpose and inspiration.

# Notes from Small Team Meetings

Use this sheet to take important notes, comments and information from your small team meeting.

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Please include notes in your survey or email to [SarahCirelli@azcitizensforthearts.org](mailto:SarahCirelli@azcitizensforthearts.org)

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