

SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE AGING  
AND TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING IN  
STATE ARTS AGENCIES

# SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE AGING AND TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING IN STATE ARTS AGENCIES

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[www.arohaphilanthropies.org](http://www.arohaphilanthropies.org)

Cover Image: Teaching Artist, Karen Fitzgerald, poses for her class as they practice gesture drawing. The Creative Aging workshop, Drawing to See, took place at the Glen Oaks Community Library in Queens, NY. Photo credit: Madlyn Schneider

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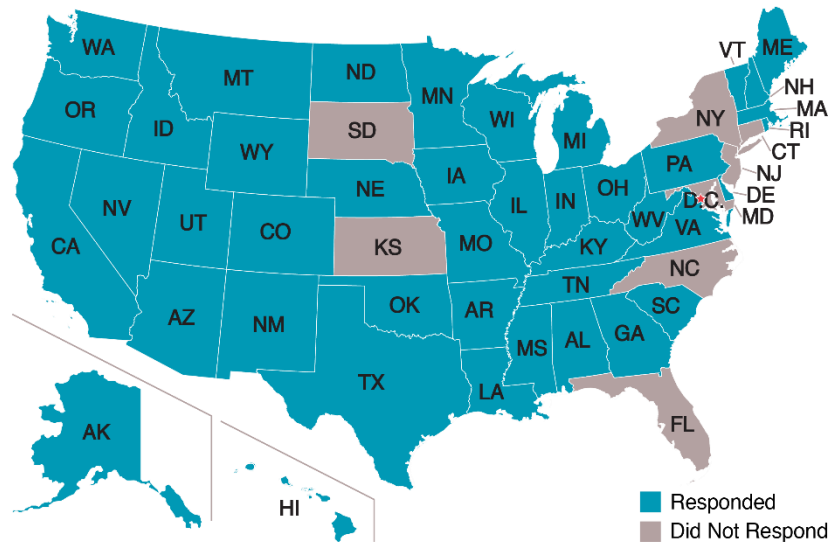
## ABOUT LIFETIME ARTS

Founded in 2008 as an arts service organization, Lifetime Arts is dedicated to improving the lives of older adults through arts education and is nationally recognized as a major contributor to the development of Creative Aging policies, best practices, training resources, technical assistance, and advocacy. [www.lifetimearts.org](http://www.lifetimearts.org)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a service to the emerging field of Creative Aging, Lifetime Arts conducted a series of national surveys to investigate and disseminate a more complete picture of programming and teaching artist training in the field. We sought to uncover successful models; identify the gaps in service; and help to set an agenda to establish best practices, funding priorities, and broad access. This survey, the second in the series, was conducted between July 6, 2015 and September 21, 2015.

It was sent to state arts agency (SAA) staff members identified by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA); 50 responses were received representing 43 states including the District of Columbia.



## RESULTS

The survey revealed strong interest in Creative Aging among SAAs but inconsistent policies to plan and allocate funds for programs and teaching artist training. Most SAAs include Creative Aging or lifelong learning in their strategic plans and others will add these areas to their plans in the next two-three years.

Most agencies (56%) offer programs for older adults, but only 25% have a Creative Aging funding category. Many SAAs (67%) maintain a roster of teaching artists, but only 11 respondents say they have trained artists to work with older adults and only 8 respondents identify roster artists who have experience in Creative Aging.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

SAAs identified a number of capacity building measures and resources that are needed to meet the mission of serving older citizens with instructional arts programs. Dedicated funding streams would allow SAAs to provide incentives to organizations to develop and offer Creative Aging programs and train artists to serve this population. While some SAAs have Creative Aging programs and services, most need access to - and training in - program models, as well as cross-sector relationships with the healthcare and aging services departments in their states.

Please visit the following link for [complete SAA Survey results](#).

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## INTRODUCTION

Skilled teaching artists (TAs) are key to the quality and effectiveness of Creative Aging programming. Whether independent contractors, or employees of arts organizations, TAs are being asked to design and deliver programs that address the potential for creativity, learning and social engagement to improve the quality of life for older adults.

As a service to the field of Creative Aging, Lifetime Arts, with support from Aroha Philanthropies, has conducted three national surveys to gather information about Creative Aging programming in general – and teaching artist training specifically. The first survey, [Teaching Artist Training in Creative Aging](#), gathered information from Creative Aging organizations. This survey was targeted to state arts agencies and was developed and distributed in 2015 in consultation with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Washington, DC. The 3<sup>rd</sup> survey, (Teaching Artistry & Adults 55+: Individual Perspectives on Creative Aging), is being disseminated through May 2016 and will be reported on later in the year.

SAAAs are vital to the support of arts and culture in all 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions. Each agency provides a unique combination of grants and services for artists, arts organizations, schools, and community groups. These include training and information to strengthen management and the entrepreneurial skills of artists and arts organizations. The SAAAs support programs in every part of the country – urban, suburban, and rural. At the time of the survey, no national data had been collected about the extent to which SAAAs were serving older adults through direct grant funding for instructional arts programs and to what extent they were supporting teaching artist training.

Americans are living longer, healthier lives and the demand to create strategies and programs to serve older adults is receiving increasing attention from SAAAs. Lifetime Arts has conducted training workshops for the Maine Arts Commission, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and New Hampshire State Council on the Arts among others. The National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA), Washington, DC, launched a community of practice initiative to support SAAAs to develop infrastructure and programming in arts, health, and aging ([SAA Communities of Practice](#).)



*Creative Aging program participants pose after a theater performance at the Tempe Public Library, AZ.*

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the survey was to learn if, and to what extent, state arts agencies are supporting programs and training in Creative Aging. We sought to identify the gaps in service and help contribute to the field of Creative Aging.

## METHODOLOGY

Via SurveyMonkey, Lifetime Arts disseminated a Survey (Appendix II) to 162 staff members of state arts agencies in the Summer of 2015 asking about their programming for older adults and whether or not and how they provide professional development for TAs. Fifty individuals from SAAs around the country responded - representing 43\* states (Appendix I).



\*Includes Washington, D.C.

## KEY FINDINGS

Most SAAs understand that their state populations are rapidly aging and that they must respond to this broad demographic shift with new approaches to programming and funding. Some SAAs are embracing these challenges. More SAAs are taking advantage of resources available to them to advance Creative Aging in their states, and the quality and number of programs and services is expected to grow, with effective advocacy.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDING

- 70% of SAAs include Creative Aging/lifelong learning in their strategic plans.
- 25% now have a funding category for Creative Aging.
- 94% are interested in expanding funding categories to include Creative Aging.



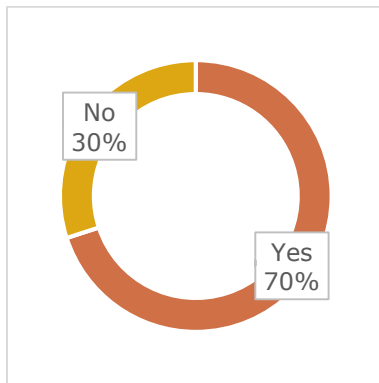
*Teaching Artist, Jeremiah Jenner, guides participants through an exercise in photographing a still-life – during a Creative Aging program at Arcola Lakes Branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.*

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

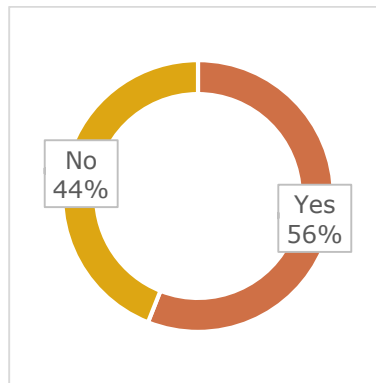
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- 56% support older adult programs and services in various grant categories.
- 87% offer non-grant programs and services related to older adults.
- 85% fund instructional arts programs for older adults.
- 80% fund intergenerational programs.
- 79% are interested in developing programs specifically for older adults.
- 15% have conducted asset mapping of Creative Aging services in their state.

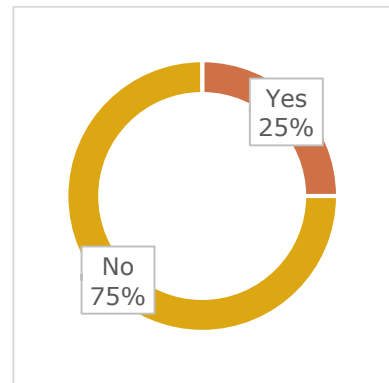
Does your agency's strategic plan include Creative Aging/lifelong learning?



Does your agency provide or fund programs or services specifically for older adults?



Is there a specific funding category or initiative for instructional arts programs for older adults (Creative Aging)?



SAAAs ranked the following resources needed to fund, provide, and/or develop instructional arts programs for older adults:

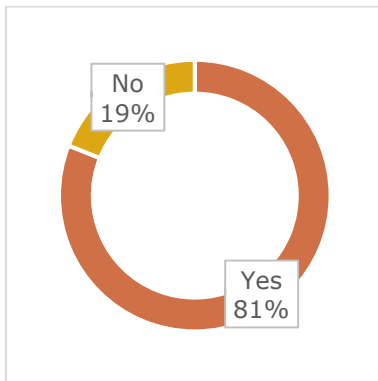
1. Dedicated funding sources;
2. Access to successful program models;
3. Access to partners outside of the arts in education fields (e.g. aging, healthcare, etc.);
4. Guidance from Creative Aging/lifelong learning specialists;
5. Training information workshops (at NASAA or Americans for the Arts);
6. Access to proven teaching artist training programs;
7. Access to online resources;
8. Events promoting public awareness of Creative Aging practices.



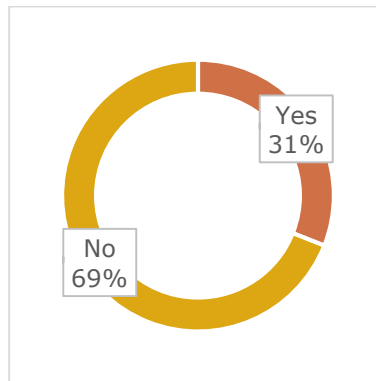
## TEACHING ARTIST ROSTERS AND TRAINING

- 67% maintain a teaching artist roster.
- 19% identify Creative Aging TAs on their roster.
- 81% provide basic TA training or fund others to do so.
- 25% of artist training programs prepare artists to work with older adults.
- For those who do not currently offer training to prepare TAs to work with older adults, 88% are interested in doing so.

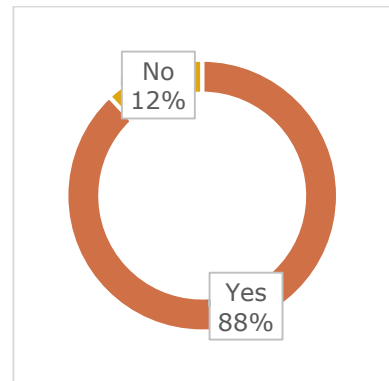
Does your agency provide teaching artist training or fund other organizations to do so?



Does the training prepare teaching artists to work with older adults?



Are you interested in providing/supporting training for teaching artists to work specifically with older adults?



SAAAs ranked the following resources needed to provide and/or develop Creative Aging teaching artist training:

1. Access to proven teaching artist training programs and online resources;
2. On-site teaching artist training from Creative Aging experts;
3. Guidance from Creative Aging/lifelong learning specialists;
4. Access to cross-sector partners in aging and healthcare, etc.;
5. Training information workshops at national conferences (NASAA, Americans for the Arts, or National Center for Creative Aging);
6. Events promoting public awareness of Creative Aging practices;
7. Dedicated funding sources.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Parallel to the recommendations in the Lifetime Arts' [Teaching Artist Training in Creative Aging: A National Survey](#), Creative Aging services must be built into state and local cultural plans.
- Building the capacity of SAAs to initiate, fund and sustain Creative Aging programming and services is critical – through professional development, training, and access to resources.
- Training and information sharing is needed between SAA staff, cultural workers, and TAs to develop quality instructional arts programs for older adults.
- SAAs should take advantage of staff expertise, funding and program relationships that already exist in their arts education and folk/traditional arts departments.
- SAAs should seek out programming partnerships with healthcare networks, library systems, and aging services (among others.)
- SAAs should take the lead in advocating for diverse programs and practitioners that reflect the cultures of their constituencies.

Because state arts agencies hold prominent leadership positions with funding guidelines that set high standards for quality programming, they are in unique positions to affect cultural policy and promote Creative Aging. Staff members are familiar with the arts community and can identify promising opportunities to leverage funding resources and relationships. There are opportunities for public/private initiatives when SAAs collaborate with foundations and other funders that share an interest in Creative Aging and the well-being of older adults.



*Teaching Artists participating in a social engagement activity during Lifetime Arts Training Institute | Winter 2015.*

## APPENDIX I: ORGANIZATIONS SURVEYED

- Alabama State Council on the Arts
- Alaska State Council on the Arts
- Arizona Commission on the Arts
- Arkansas Arts Council
- California Arts Council
- Colorado Creative Industries
- DC Commission on Arts and Humanities
- Delaware Division of the Arts
- Georgia Council for the Arts
- Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
- Idaho Commission on the Arts
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- Indiana Arts Commission
- Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
- Kentucky Arts Council
- Louisiana Division of the Arts
- Maine Arts Commission
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- State of Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
- Minnesota State Arts Board
- Mississippi Arts Commission
- Missouri Arts Council
- Montana Arts Council
- Nebraska Arts Council
- Nevada Arts Council
- New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
- New Mexico Arts
- North Dakota Council on the Arts
- Ohio Arts Council
- Oklahoma Arts Council
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- South Carolina Arts Commission
- Tennessee Arts Commission
- Texas Commission on the Arts
- Utah Division of Arts and Museums
- Vermont Arts Council
- Virginia Commission for the Arts
- Washington State Arts Commission
- West Virginia Division of Culture and History
- Wisconsin Arts Board
- Wyoming Arts Council

# APPENDIX II: SURVEY QUESTIONS

## ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

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1. Contact Information
2. Does your agency's strategic plan include Creative Aging/lifelong learning -- a focus on active participation in the arts by older adults?
  - Yes
  - No
3. Does your agency provide or fund programs or services specifically for older adults?
  - Yes
  - No
4. If no, is your agency interested in providing programs or services specifically for older adults?
  - Yes
  - No
- 4a. If yes, does your agency plan to expand programs or services specifically for older adults in the next 2-3 years?
  - Yes
  - No
5. Does your agency provide non-grant services or programs for older adults? If so, please check all that apply. If not, leave this question blank.
  - Community Based Artist Residencies (Instructional Arts Programs)
  - Intergenerational Programs
  - Art Therapies or Health & Wellness Programs
  - Lectures, Performances, and Tours
  - Teaching Artist Training
  - Technical Assistance Workshops
  - Convenings
  - Staff Consulting Time for Constituent Organizations or Arts Communities
6. Does your agency provide non-grant services or programs for older adults? If so, please check all that apply. If not, leave this question blank.
  - Community Based Artist Residencies (Instructional Arts Programs)
  - Intergenerational Programs
  - Art Therapies or Health & Wellness Programs
  - Lectures, Performances, and Tours
  - Teaching Artist Training
  - Technical Assistance Workshops
  - Convenings
  - Staff Consulting Time for Constituent Organizations or Arts Communities

7. Is there a specific funding category or initiative for instructional arts programs for older adults (Creative Aging)?
- Yes
  - No
8. If no, are you interested in expanding your funding categories or initiatives to include instructional arts programs for older adults (Creative Aging)?
- Yes
  - No
- 8a. If yes, does your agency intend to expand older adult funding categories or initiatives within the next 2-3 years?
- Yes
  - No
9. If your agency currently supports instructional arts programs for older adults, or would like begin funding in this area, what services would be the most useful in developing or providing instructional arts programs for older adults? Please rank from 1 to 5, with 1 being not needed and 5 being very useful. If this question does not apply, please skip to the next question.
- Guidance from Creative Aging/Lifelong Learning Specialists
  - Access to on-line resources
  - Access to models of successful Creative Aging/Lifelong Learning programs
  - Access to proven teaching artist training programs
  - Access to partners outside of the arts in fields such as aging and health care
  - Events promoting public awareness of Creative Aging practices
  - Training information workshops at NASAA or American for the Arts
  - Additional resources or dedicated funding sources for Creative Aging services and grants
10. Has your agency conducted asset mapping to understand the scope of organizations providing Creative Aging services in your state?
- Yes
  - No
11. Does your agency provide teaching artist training or fund other organizations to do so?
- Yes
  - No
12. If yes, does the training prepare teaching artists to work with older adults?
- Yes
  - No

13. What services would be the most useful in developing or providing Creative Aging teaching artist training?
- Guidance from Creative Aging/Lifelong Learning Specialists
  - Teaching artist training from Creative Aging experts
  - Access to on-line resources
  - Access to models of successful Creative Aging/Lifelong Learning programs
  - Access to proven teaching artist training programs
  - Access to partners outside of the arts in fields such as aging and health care
  - Events promoting public awareness of Creative Aging practices
  - Training information workshops at NASAA or American for the Arts
  - Additional resources or dedicated funding sources for Creative Aging services and grants
14. Does your agency have a Teaching Artist Roster?
- Yes
  - No
15. If yes, does the roster include or indicate teaching artists who specifically or exclusively teach older adults?
- Yes
  - No
16. (OPTIONAL) If available, please share web links to any arts education programming or teaching artist training for older adults provided or supported by your agency.
17. (OPTIONAL) Please share any thoughts you have on the expanding field of Creative Aging or serving your state's older adult population.