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#mdartscouncil

HEADLINE NEEDED

BALTIMORE, MD (March XX, 2021) -

Aroha Philanthropies and the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#) (NASAA) announced this month that the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is one of 36 arts agencies receiving through its [Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging initiative](#) meant to expand opportunities for creative aging across the nation, facilitating lifelong learning, joy, social engagement and improved wellbeing for older adults. MSAC's grant will support a Creative Aging Arts Provider and Venue Training project, which includes collaboration with the Fine Arts Office of the Maryland Department of Education Fine Arts Office (MSDE) to expand existing professional learning as part of MSDE's Maryland Micro-Credentials for Creative Classrooms (#mcreds) Creative Aging Provider training. It will also support two biannual networking events for #mcreds alums and community partners and an annual convening at the Maryland Arts Summit.

"We are grateful for NASAA's support that will allow us to expand our support of lifelong learning, and are thrilled to deepen our collaboration with the Fine Arts Office and ," said Ken Skrzysz, MSAC's Executive Director. "This program will increase the capacity of teaching artists and vendors to sustain high-quality arts learning for older adults throughout the State. We are also excited to support more opportunities for teaching artists to engage with their community."

The Creative Aging Arts Provider training is a 15-hour virtual course open to community teaching artists and arts educators. The course includes a variety of synchronous and asynchronous activities. All synchronous sessions are led by the Lifetime Arts facilitator team and all asynchronous activities are led by MSDE. The two biannual networking events supported by this grant will include presentations by local, state, and regional funders followed by artist showcases, speed dating, and resource sharing. These 90-minute events will be open to the 2020 and 2021 cohorts of the Creative Aging #mcred for Providers and Vendors. In addition, a pre-conference at the [YEAR] annual statewide conference for the arts sector,

the Maryland Arts Summit. The Summit convenes the entire arts sector, including education, tourism, health, public art and more. This pre-conference will feature presentations from the field, national experts, and networking to support providers' continuing education.

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About Maryland State Arts Council

Founded in 1967, MSAC is an agency of the State of Maryland Department of Commerce that plays an essential role, ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts. MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland. To do this, the agency awards grants to not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations for ongoing arts programming and projects, awards grants to individual artists, and provides technical and advisory assistance to individuals and groups. MSAC receives its funds in an annual appropriation from the State of Maryland and from grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Council may also receive contributions from private, non-governmental sources. For more information, go to msac.org.

About Maryland State Department of Education Fine Arts Office

Under the leadership of the State Superintendent of Schools and guidance from the Maryland State Board of Education, the Maryland State Department of Education develops and implements standards and policy for education programs from pre-kindergarten through high school. The Fine Arts Office promotes meaningful engagement in arts education for all Maryland students. msdefinearts.org

About the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

NASAA's mission is to strengthen state arts agencies. They are the professional association of the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA is a national, not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that champions public support for the arts in America. Together, NASAA and the state arts agencies advance the arts as an essential ingredient in the well-being and prosperity of our nation's individuals, communities and families. To learn more, visit nasaa-arts.org.