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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 14, 2023

TO: Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner of Education

FROM: Marissa Payzant, Ed.D.
Assistant Administrator, Office of Teaching, Learning & Assessment

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to accept funds from the Nebraska Arts Council to participate in the Arts Education Data Project

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): GRANT

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) wishes to grant the Nebraska Department of Education's Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment a total amount of \$60,000 for entry into, and ongoing participation in, the [Arts Education Data Project](#) (AEDP). The AEDP is a national project that provides data visualization tools that track student access and participation in arts education. The AEDP standardizes state-level data and transforms it into a publicly available, interactive dashboard that is updated annually. The grant funds over a three-year period will allow the NAC and the NDE to collect and analyze data to help ensure access to high-quality arts education in K-12 public schools throughout the state.
- Currently, 31 states participate in the AEDP, with more anticipated for SY 2023-2024. The project will provide a picture of the current state of arts education in Nebraska, such as which students have access to arts education and which students participate in arts education. Inclusion in the AEDP will allow us to have a better understanding of the supports that allow access, as well as develop plans to address barriers to arts education. Historically, knowledge about student participation in the arts has not been systematically tracked, despite it being indicated as a priority by policy makers, educators, and parents over the past two decades. The purpose of the AEDP is to provide a tool for expanding arts education by understanding its current state. Inclusion in the AEDP is a way to positively impact arts participation so that resources can be directed to specific areas of need, and to learn from schools whose programs and opportunities are robust.
- The data will be used to inform the work of the NDE as well as the broader community, in particular organizations that have a stake in providing access to arts education. Arts educators and students will be served by activities designed to expand access.
- The NDE has requested, from NAC, \$60,000 for a three-year commitment to fund the AEDP. The NAC will pay a total of \$60,000 for the three-year commitment. The first year of participation for new states is \$30,000, with the subsequent two years \$15,000 each. The NDE will agree to enter the AEDP, provide technical support and collaboration to oversee its implementation, and provide ongoing communication to stakeholders throughout the



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project period. In addition, the NDE will facilitate the use of the AEDP for making data-informed decisions regarding arts education and access, promote participation, and provide reports to the NAC throughout the project period. The agreement will be established with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NAC and the NDE.

- Proposed Timeline:
 - Year 1 – Funding request to NAC by February 15, 2023 for \$30,000, payment to be made 30 days from completion of the agreement. Grant period running from agreement through June 30, 2024. Final report to NAC by July 31, 2024.
 - Year 2 – Funding request to NAC by May 15, 2024 for \$15,000, payment to be made on August 1, 2024. Grant period running from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Final report to NAC by July 31, 2025.
 - Year 3 – Funding request to NAC by May 15, 2025 for \$15,000, payment to be made on August 1, 2025. Grant period running from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Final report to NAC by July 31, 2026.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2023

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Nebraska Arts Council
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

**Updated 02.07.2023*