

Thank you for volunteering to host an Emerging Leader Creative Conversation in your community. Your dedication to this project is crucial in galvanizing emerging arts leaders to meet this October to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month.

This tool kit will help you organize a successful Creative Conversation. It contains sample agendas, a list of suggested topics and resources, sample marketing materials, and other information to help you launch your Creative Conversation—feel free to customize as needed. Just a reminder, Americans for the Arts will market Creative Conversations nationally and handle all registrations. We will send you weekly registration updates and e-mail a final list of registered participants prior to your Creative Conversation, as well as a sign-in sheet for walk-ins. Also, Americans for the Arts will send all registered participants an e-mail reminder a few days before your Creative Conversation.

As a Local Host, we are confident that you will be an ambassador for the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Network. To help you, we have also enclosed some quick talking points about Americans for the Arts and the Emerging Leaders Network for you to present during your Creative Conversation. We will also send you the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leader Program brochure via snail mail prior to your meeting.

We know you will host a successful Creative Conversation—no matter how much or how little time you have to coordinate it. Creative Conversations come in all shapes and sizes. There is no set format or mandatory content. During the past few years, Creative Conversations have taken many forms, including:

- Brown-bag lunches with peers and colleagues to discuss local arts issues and building a career in arts administration.
- Professional development workshops on work-life balance, crisis management, audience development, fundraising, etc.
- Panel sessions and moderated interviews with politicians, funders, and local arts leaders.
- Full-day symposia with keynote speakers, professional development workshops, networking sessions, and more.

These Creative Conversations have been consistently successful in connecting emerging arts leaders who want to make a dynamic difference in their lives and communities, just like you! Since 2004, many groups have formalized into strong, local networks of dynamic emerging arts leaders, connected to and changing their communities in a positive way.

Thank you again for volunteering your time, energy, and creativity to plan an Emerging Arts Leaders Creative Conversation in your community. If you need any additional information or ideas, please contact Americans for the Arts at leadership@artsusa.org or call 202.371.2830.

October is National Arts and Humanities Month.

Celebrate by **convening** emerging arts leaders in your community and **connecting** to the national network at Americans for the Arts.