

What is the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response?

The Coalition formed in 2006 in response to the significant losses and devastation suffered by artists and creative economies in the wake of 21st century disasters. As a voluntary task force of national, regional, state and local arts organizations, public agencies, and foundations the Coalition helps ensure that artists, arts/cultural organizations, cultural funders, and arts businesses are able to and can respond effectively to disasters and emergencies affecting the arts and culture sector. We also believe the Arts Sector is an essential collaborator in broader societal efforts for preparedness, emergency response, and recovery to ensure the resilience of the general community. See the attached list of current Coalition members.

What does the Coalition do?

Our group helps to build the stability and resilience of the Arts Sector by:

- Developing a coordinated system of communication and information sharing for arts responders,
- Supporting their training and ongoing education,
- Fostering relationships with providers in the emergency services sector and advocating for improved disaster service delivery to artists, arts/cultural organizations, and arts businesses.

What are some of the specific Coalition outcomes to date and/ or projects in progress?

- Creation of the new *A Cultural Placekeeping Guide*, to be published online in spring 2017.
- Participation in the development and implementation of a NEA Director's Convening on *Readiness and Resiliency: Advancing a Collaborative and National Strategy for the Arts in Times of Emergencies* in April 2016.
- Creation and implementation of a national web-based communications network about arts preparedness, emergency response and recovery serving the Arts Sector in 2017.
- Creation of the [*Essential Guidelines for Arts Responders*](#). This electronic document is sent to arts council and foundation staff members in areas affected by emergencies. Designed to provide guidance to people during and immediately after events, the document provides resources and suggested methods for organizing response for the arts community.
- Creation of a White Paper, "[*A Vision for Emergency Readiness, Response and Recovery in the Arts Sector*](#)" addressing the status and policy environment of readiness and response needs for arts organizations and artists.

Who is involved?

The Coalition is governed by a Steering Committee of individuals and organizational representatives, who bring a diverse range of perspectives, resources and experiences in order to serve the needs and interests of artists and the arts/cultural sector at large. Our definition of diversity is broad-based including: racial/ethnic, geographic, gender, diversity of artistic disciplines, of arts organizational size and type as well as individual artist perspective, for-profit, nonprofit, and public sector.

How does the Coalition operate?

We are a flexible "network" rather than a stand-alone nonprofit organization. The Regional Arts Organization South Arts currently serves as the Coalition's fiscal agent and administrative base of operations. We seek project and other funding support from foundations, public sector partners like NEA, and annual contributions from Steering Committee members (based on their capacity and circumstances). The Steering Committee is elected on a rotating basis and is chaired by two members. We meet (phone and/or video conferencing) monthly (or as needed). We have Working Groups involving Committee and at-large members that are convened as needed. We also try to have one in-person meeting each year, **usually in January. The Steering Committee was strategically expanded in 2016.**

For more information, please contact: Ruby Lopez Harper, Co-Chair, rharper@artsusa.org, 202-371-2830 x 2079 or Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, Co-Chair, mquinlanhayes@southarts.org, 404-874-7244 x 31

6/18/17

**STEERING COMMITTEE
2017
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS**

The Actors Fund – Barbara Davis, Chief Operating Officer

Americans for the Arts – Ruby Lopez Harper (Committee Co-Chair), Director of Local Arts Services

ArtsReady/South Arts – Mollie Quinlan-Hayes (Committee Co-Chair), Director

Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+) – Cornelia Carey, Executive Director

Joan Mitchell Foundation – Christa Blatchford, CEO

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies – Suzanne Wise, Board Member

National Endowment for the Arts – Laura Scanlan, Director/State and Regional Partnerships; Tony Tighe, Chief of Staff

National Performance Network – Stephanie Atkins, Director of Local Program

New York Foundation for the Arts – Maria Villafranca, Director of Communications

South Arts – Suzette M. Surkamer, Executive Director

Esther Grimm – 3Arts, Executive Director

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Theodore (Ted) S. Berger – Arts Consultant, Executive Director/New York Creates

