

Agenda
WESTAF Executive Directors Forum
Monday, October 1 and Tuesday, October 2, 2018 | Phoenix, Arizona
Hotel Palomar | 2 East Jefferson Street | Phone: 602-253-6633

Monday, October 1

Location: Hotel Palomar, Fresca Room and Patio

- 4:00 pm Introductions
- 4:15 pm Arts agency directors present visions of progress
- The vision for progress in the next legislative session
 - The vision of progress five years from now
 - Completion of confidential survey
- 6:30 pm Meet in lobby to travel to an off-site working dinner
- 6:45 pm Cocktails
- 7:15 pm Working Dinner
- Matt Wilson reviews and leads a discussion of the collective responses to the confidential questionnaire. He then comments on ways to more effectively advocate with elected officials on behalf of state arts agencies.
 - Session with Matt Wilson, Executive Director, MASSCreative, Boston, Massachusetts

*Location: Gladly Restaurant 2201 East Camelback Road, Phoenix
602-759-8132*

9:15 pm Adjourn

Tuesday, October 2

Location: Hotel Palomar, Fresca Room and Patio

- 8:15 am Full Breakfast
- 8:30 am Updates from the National Endowment for the Arts
- 9:00 am Briefing on the finalization of the WESTAF strategic plan
- Presented by Erin Graham, Chair, WESTAF
- 9:45 am Working Session #1: Working with state arts advocacy organizations
- What is the current situation?
 - How can the situation be improved?
 - What, if anything, can WESTAF do to help?

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Working Session #2: Learning from Arizona

- This session is with Jaime Dempsey, executive director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Rusty Foley, executive director of Arizona Citizens for the Arts. They will make a presentation and then lead a discussion on the following recent major activity in Arizona.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey announced on April 18, 2018 that his plan to pay for raises for teachers statewide, included eliminating \$2 million in funding for Arizona Commission on the Arts grants. The proposed cut would have resulted in grants being cut by up to 70 percent for arts organizations and would have eliminated arts programs for schools and communities statewide. [Arizona Citizens for the Arts](#) rallied its advocates, and the state legislature and governor heard from over 1,000 constituents speaking out against zeroing out state arts funding, which would have no effect on the teacher pay plan. Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona legislature struck a budget deal on May 3, 2018 that included \$2 million in arts funding. The state funding will come from the state's rainy day fund, as it has in several years past.

12:00 Noon Lunch

12:30 pm What is new at WESTAF?

- Report on the newly appointed WESTAF trustees.
- Developments in the Public Art Archive Program that may impact the states.
- WESTAF programs state directors will be asked to nominate individuals for.
- Update on the WESTAF executive director search process.
- Review of other items of interest to the attending executive directors.

1:00 pm Working Session #3: Executive Director-Suggested Topics

- Topic #1 What are the challenges involved in reducing the types of grant categories at a state arts agency?
- Topic #2 How can I better finesse appointments to my arts agency governing board?
- Topic #3 How can a state arts agency be effective when the budget of one or more local arts agencies in the state is far larger than that of the state arts agency?

2:00 pm Adjourn