

Jan 2026 Lt. Governor Creative Economy Convening Discussion Board.

Sticky notes added:

1. Related to arts and culture in Delaware, what are you proud of from 2025?

a. Partnerships and Collaboration

- i. Partnerships with Delaware arts organizations and artists
- ii. Seeing more arts orgs partnering.
- iii. Growing audiences who value a diversity of experiences on stage
- iv. Supporting Delaware's individual artists
- v. Growing partnerships between arts orgs

b. Arts Advocacy

- i. Being a more active advocate!
- ii. Bringing greater awareness to arts futures through SCR109
- iii. Increasing the state arts budget by \$500K
- iv. Growth of awareness that art is economically important.

c. Place-based, Organization-Specific, And Personal Accomplishments

- i. Seeing the City of Rehoboth Beach commit to invest in creating a performing arts center in Sussex County
- ii. Bringing NYT bestselling author to Delaware – she wrote the book “Your Brain on Art”
- iii. DE Humanities and Prime Time
- iv. Breaking into STEAM for middle schoolers and Nerd Nite for 21+ (Delaware Museum for Nature and Science)
- v. That my board supported me!
- vi. Wilmington Porch Fest! Free music, local artists, building community
- vii. Great budget at Brandywine School District School for Arts
- viii. Joining the DAA Board!
- ix. Being selected as a Board Member for DAA

2. Related to arts and culture in Delaware, what are your 2026 resolutions?

a. Advocacy

- i. Better tell the story about how the arts make our communities better and healthier
- ii. Easier to contract at each county – New Castle has the county or city forms to work in the county – it's a cumbersome process. Streamline.

- iii. Hold CREATE Plan meetings in the evenings so that working artists can attend.
- iv. Opportunity for Workforce Training Programs and Apprenticeships to help connect Delawareans to careers in the arts.
- v. Involving artists and teaching artists at every level of planning, ideating, and implementation.
- vi. Ask artists: what career paths are possible to inspire youth to see this as a viable career?

b. Funding

- i. Addressing paying teaching artists on time. No way to hold the county accountable.
- ii. Affordable studio space for artists in each county.
- iii. State funding for DE Humanities!
- iv. Create a culture of philanthropy for my organization

c. Partnerships

- i. I'm looking forward to doing more listening this year! Hearing from our community members and embracing their ideas.
- ii. Create a vibrant arts community in central DE
- iii. To grow Kent County's arts culture and foster more events here.
- iv. Continuing to connect the arts with nature and science
- v. Supporting and encouraging artists and creatives to thrive
- vi. Shift the paradigm so that Coastal Delaware's seen as the arts hub that it is
- vii. Continue to grow Kent County Art Classes – employ more teaching artists and bring “doing” art into more lives
- viii. Reach out to connect with more arts organizations
- ix. Build a community of art-minded folks where we meet monthly and explore art spaces in Delaware

d. Personal

- i. See more live music.
- ii. Explore more new venues across the state.
- iii. To visit more arts and culture orgs
- iv. Attend more school performances.
- v. Attend 10 art related events
- vi. Have more exhibits in 2026 – Alisha Cooper Wells

3. Related to the CREATE Plan, what opportunities do you see?

a. Partnerships

- i. More arts hubs across the state, especially in Sussex County
- ii. Artist professional development via partnerships
- iii. Cross Promotion among Delaware organizations and others as large-scale events take place around us
- iv. DAA creating new arts events like concerts, dances, etc. Funded by stakeholders
- v. More collaborating with creatives and creative small business

b. Funding

- i. Tourism % to go to arts grants
- ii. Marijuana, Lottery, Gas, Tourism --> Tax % for arts funding
- iii. Expanding arts funding by inspiring philanthropy within the state in the face of federal cuts

c. Education

- i. STEAM
- ii. A way to show arts as a viable pathway in schools
- iii. In education, advocate for non-arts pathway students' academic requirements to allow space for electives. In some districts, pathway requirements restrict students from yearly access to band, choir, etc.
- iv. Adult education (Creative Aging)
- v. School and early childhood integration
- vi. Build bridges that are vibrant, sustainable, community-building between arts organizations and K-12 and higher ed
- vii. Working with our youngest, Birth to 5 years old
- viii. Apprenticeships and internships that could be shared/led between different orgs and companies

d. Support for the Arts

- i. Statewide recognition of artists as entrepreneurs
- ii. I see opportunities for municipalities to take a look at the evidence and support the arts