The Americans for the Arts Executive Leadership Forum came at a pivotal point in my personal Leadership tenure at my organization. The lessons learned from ELF Toledo provided me with clarity, passion and encouragement, all which I am now able to bring back to my own community and put into action immediately.

– Past ELF attendee
What does it take to be at the top of your game as a local arts agency executive director? Are you feeling “lonely at the top”? Overburdened?Disconnected? Craving creative solutions and fresh perspective? Imagine a space to be in exchange with peers who really understand the work and the challenges. Welcome to the Executive Leadership Forums.

The Americans for the Arts’ Executive Leadership Forums are two wholly unique opportunities to explore, learn, and plan with your peers in an intimate and invigorating gathering of local arts agency executives. This year, we offer two opportunities—one nestled in a beautiful western retreat setting of the Wasatch Mountains, and one centered in downtown Des Moines and the relationships that are building a stronger community where arts and culture is center.

Each event will give participants the opportunity to join 19 other long-term LAA executives to reflect, brainstorm, challenge, and be challenged. Whether you’re looking to be invigorated by nature or the cultural vibrancy of a humming city, come together to celebrate and experience art, food, and the company of some of the other great minds as part of the 2018 Executive Leadership Forums.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
The Executive Leadership Forum is designed for executive directors of local arts agencies and nexus organizations looking to step out of the daily routine and view their work through a fresh lens. The program will strengthen your professional network, inspire new ways of thinking and create space for personal renewal. Getting out of your day-to-day routine and step into a lively, thoughtful, and uninterrupted idea and knowledge exchange with peers.

Just as each community situation and need is different, so each Forum is different. The focus at Sundance is on the big picture – stepping back and looking forward through reflection, relaxation, and connection with the natural world. Des Moines will take us into the inner workings of a community that runs on collaboration – no one works alone in Des Moines which makes for unique partnerships. The immersive Forum will change locations every year to give leaders access to what’s happening around the country right now.

PROGRAM DETAILS
Participants are selected through an application process. Invitations will be emailed in Spring 2018.

The Executive Leadership Forum is made up of peer exchanges—not panels—that allow executives to present and explore a pressing challenge or opportunity in his or her community. These exchanges are mixed with curated discussions and learnings around themes and trends. Attendees will workshop current issues and ground future action in new ideas, insights, and strategy suggestions from peers.

REGISTRATION DETAILS
The attendance fee is $2,000 per person for Des Moines and $3,000 per person for Sundance, which covers lodging, meals, entertainment, on-the-ground transportation, and meeting costs (excludes airfare).

Visit AmericansForTheArts.org/exec to learn more. Must be a current Americans for the Arts member to qualify. Invitations are non-transferable. Fees are non-refundable.
Email rharper@artsusa.org for more information.