

CONNECTICUT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO RECEIVE \$1,045,800 IN FEDERAL FUNDING

National Endowment for the Arts announces funding to 14 organizations including State's Arts Office

HARTFORD, Conn. (May 12, 2016) - The National Endowment for the Arts today announced that fourteen (14) Connecticut organizations, including the Connecticut Office of the Arts, will receive \$1,045,800 in federal grants through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). These grants will support activities in communities throughout Connecticut that effect the state's economy, quality of life and educational programs.

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu said, "The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Supporting projects like the ones in Rhode Island offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

"The impact that the arts have on the vibrancy of our great state is immeasurable," said Kristina Newman-Scott, Director of Culture. "We are thrilled for the museums, theaters, galleries, festivals, symphonies, and education entities that have benefitted from the strong support of the National Endowment for the Arts through these grants. The exceptional work of these recipients as well as all recipients of COA funding, in turn, provides Connecticut citizens with ample opportunities to access and enjoy the arts through art making and participation. We are delighted to celebrate our state's rich and diverse cultural heritage alongside our federal partner."



A list of the projects receiving funding is below:

Connecticut

Number of Grants: 15

Total Dollar Amount: \$1,045,800

Connecticut State Office of the Arts, Dept. of Economic & Community Development

\$745,800 Hartford, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: State & Regional

To support Partnership Agreement activities in the state.

Housatonic Community College Foundation**\$15,000 Bridgeport, CT**

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Museum

To support the Housatonic Museum's Peer Docent Program. An arts enrichment program that introduces students to art and art history, the program provides Bridgeport middle school students with an opportunity to use object-based inquiry to develop visual, analytical, and critical thinking skills. The nine-week program will invite the artist/architect Thom Mayne (b. 1944) to work with middle school students in the examination of art history, historic preservation, and architecture. The program is modeled on successful museum education efforts at Harvard and the Aldrich Museum.

Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc. (aka Goodspeed Musicals)**\$25,000 East Haddam, CT**

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Theater & Musical Theater

To support the production of "Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz." The musical portrays actress Judy Garland's early life when she was cast in "The Wizard of Oz." Born into hardship, the youngest child of vaudevillians, Garland achieved success through persistence, talent, and pluck, yet struggled to support her family and please studio executives. The production will feature over two dozen songs associated with her career, including titles by Hoagy Carmichael, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, and her signature number "Over the Rainbow," by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg. Each song will not only advance the plot but also provide audiences with the opportunity to experience the music from the Golden Era of Hollywood. Conceived by Tina Marie Casamento, with a book by Marc Acito, music adaptation by David Libby, and the songs made famous by Judy Garland, the production will include accompanying educational and community outreach activities.

I-Park Foundation, Inc. (aka I-Park)**\$20,000 East Haddam, CT**

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works

To support the Environmental Art Biennale residency program. Artists in disciplines such as literature, visual arts, music, performance art, new media, and design will create new, site-specific environmental works while in residence at I-Park's nature preserve. Artists will receive housing, meals, workshop space, a stipend, equipment, materials, and technical support to create their work. The biennale will conclude with public exhibitions and performances.

Hill-Stead Museum**\$10,000 Farmington, CT**

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Literature

To support the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. Each outdoor festival event will feature an emerging or Connecticut-based poet, a headlining poet, and an interlude of live music. Headlining poets will conduct workshops at the museum on the day of their performance. The festival also will include the CT Young Poets Day, in which winners of the Fresh Voices Student Poetry Competition perform their work. The museum records all poetry and music performances for future distribution online.

Artists Collective, Inc.

\$10,000 Hartford, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Music

To support the Jammin' Jazz series. Concert performances will be curated to focus on the evolution of African roots music in the Caribbean and Americas. Selected artists may represent the genres of jazz, gospel, blues, calypso, and rhythm and blues. The series will be kicked off with a free community concert and culminate in the Jackie McLean International Arts Festival. Members of the Jackie McLean Youth Jazz Orchestra are expected to attend and perform at select events.

Connecticut Historical Society (aka CHS)

\$40,000 Hartford, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Folk & Traditional Arts

To support the Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CHAP). In addition to ongoing activities of fieldwork, documentation, and presentation of folk artists, CHAP will expand a pilot project in oral narrative traditions, as well as partner with southern New England Native American artists and cultural organizations to organize a workshop about collections practices. They will also partner with the Finnish community to present an exhibit of their folk arts and community archives.

Connecticut Historical Society (aka CHS)

\$30,000 Hartford, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Folk & Traditional Arts

To support the Southern New England Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Master artists from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island will instruct apprentices in various traditional art forms and present the results of their partnerships at public events. The program's folklorists in each state will recruit applicants and monitor the teaching process, as well as document the meetings and public presentations of each apprenticeship team. Documentation materials from the apprenticeship program will be housed in the Institute for Community Research's archives.

Architecture Resource Center Inc. (aka ARC)

\$10,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Arts Education

To support the Design Connections Partnership. ARC will offer a professional development program that integrates arts learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects for teachers in New Haven Public Schools. Master teaching artists, architects, and designers from architecture Resource Center and Yale University will mentor and collaborate with classroom teachers, mathematics coaches, and art teachers through professional development sessions and school residencies. Students will learn how to express themselves through the visual arts, how to communicate their ideas, how to work in teams to solve problems, and how to make new discoveries.

Artspace, Inc. (aka Artspace, Inc)

\$50,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Design: Our Town

To support Game On!, Artspace's annual citywide Open Studios festival. The festival will engage artists and community members through commissioned works of art that will explore how the Goffe Street Armory can connect with the surrounding neighborhood. With guidance from the City of New Haven and members of a neighborhood planning committee envisioning the Armory's future, Game On! will work with adjacent partner organizations-Prescott Bush Senior public housing, Hillhouse High, New Haven Correctional Center, and DeGale Field-to re-brand the vacant Armory and link it more closely to its surroundings. The festival activities will support the hundreds of artists and more than ten thousand community members who participate in the festival, as well the neighborhood organizations that may benefit from a re-branded armory.

Elm Shakespeare Company

\$15,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Theater & Musical Theater

To support Free Shakespeare in the Park and accompanying educational and community engagement and outreach programs. In tandem with admission-free performances in New Haven's Edgerton Park, the project also will include The Elm Scholars Program, a summer theater experience for New Haven youth to work and study with professional actors and sound and lighting designers and operators. Play selection, directed by James Andreassi, may include Shakespeare's epic tragedy, "Anthony and Cleopatra." Audiences for the project will be drawn from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York.

Music Haven, Inc. (aka Music Haven)

\$10,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Arts Education

To support Music 101, a tuition-free, year-long, after-school music education program. Program components will include free instrumental music lessons, musicianship classes and one-on-one mentoring for students living in high-poverty neighborhoods. The Music101 program is a response to parental feedback about the existing free after-school lessons program that began in 2006. Students participating in those weekly lessons needed help to increase practice time, progress in their one-on-one lessons, acquire music concepts, and needed more academic support and mentoring. Music 101 will be offered three times a week, buses will be provided for participants who would otherwise not have transportation, healthy snacks will be available, and other support services will be offered.

Yale University

\$25,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Research

To support a study of the relationship between arts participation and psychological resilience and well-being. Researchers will test for differences between adults with professional training in the arts, and adults who lack such training, by examining a variety of factors such well-being, distress intolerance, emotion regulation, and personality. The team also will use latent class modeling to see whether there are different cluster profiles among artists and non-artists based on their levels of vulnerability and psychological resources.

Yale-New Haven Hospital (aka Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital)

\$15,000 New Haven, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works

To support Art Map, a program providing arts learning opportunities for hospitalized youth and their families. Professional artists will teach patients skills in video, digital photography, writing, and music through bedside sessions and family workshops. The project will culminate with the creation of a collaborative community quilt during a 15-day workshop with quilter Ed Johnetta Miller. Youth living with chronic illness, or who are experiencing a lengthy or difficult hospital stay, will be served.

Westport Country Playhouse, Inc (aka formerly Connecticut Theatre Foundation)

\$25,000 Westport, CT

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Theater & Musical Theater

To support a production of Ayad Akhtar's "The Invisible Hand" with a community engagement initiative. The play explores the topics of global finance, global politics, terrorism, power, greed, and corruption, and community engagement activities will encourage enlightened dialogue on these issues. Planned activities include a book discussion group, a symposium on global terrorism, a speakers' series with noted scholars and artists, film screenings, an art exhibit in the lobby, and specially tailored pre- and post-show salons to support the work on stage. The production will be directed by Associate Artistic Director David Kennedy.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts.

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