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**National Guild Awarded \$100,000 NEA Collective Impact Grant
for Creative Youth Development**
Award will support blueprint to advance field

New York, NY—The National Guild for Community Arts Education, on behalf of a coalition of national partners, has been awarded an NEA Art Works grant for \$100,000. The award will support a collective impact initiative and the creation of the first-ever blueprint to advance creative youth development (CYD).

The funds are part of more than \$82 million granted in the NEA’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. “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 one from the National Guild for Community Arts Education and its CYD partners offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

Creative youth development is a new term that brings together a longstanding community of practice that intentionally integrates the arts, humanities, and sciences with youth development principles, sparking young people’s creativity and building critical learning and life skills. Representatives of the field met in 2014, to form its first-ever [national policy and advocacy agenda](#) and charged a national partnership to oversee implementation. Current partners include the National Guild (which serves as a backbone organization), Americans for the Arts, the President’s Committee for the Arts and the Humanities, and Massachusetts Cultural Council. The blueprint project will engage additional cross-sector organizations, cultivating partners from the youth development field.

“This Art Works award is a huge honor, and a recognition of the dedicated organizations across the country offering CYD programs that support young people in developing creative skills and becoming active members of their communities,” said Jonathan Herman, executive director of the National Guild. “Our national partnership hopes to organize this field, maximize its social impact, and produce a structure to inspire more organizations to develop programs that unleash the creative potential of youth.”

Building on the 2014 national agenda, the CYD blueprint will establish strategic goals to strengthen cross-sector development of the field. Leveraging their national assets, partner organizations will connect to local communities and nonprofits to collect data, implement needs assessments, and gather catalytic case stories of youth development through creative learning. Through this research and a two-day national meeting of cross-sector stakeholders, the blueprint will be created to

provide shared frameworks, data, and specific actions for advancing creative youth development and strengthening cross-sector partnerships among local and national organizations

The National Guild's Art Works grant runs from June 2016-December 2017. The blueprint project will be guided by the partners and a national advisory committee, a working group comprised of representatives from the arts, humanities, and youth development sectors.

Creative Youth Development Initiative Partners

The [National Guild for Community Arts Education](#) supports and advances equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities in the arts. Working collaboratively with a broad range of practitioners and stakeholders within and beyond the arts and education sectors, the Guild builds the capacity of community arts education providers to 1) deliver quality programs that are sustainable and equitable; 2) secure greater financial support; and 3) contribute to systemic change to ensure that all Americans have access to arts education. These goals are accomplished by providing professional development and information resources, ongoing networking opportunities, and leadership development for current and future arts education leaders. The Guild also works to increase awareness and support for community arts education and investment in the field through strategic partnerships and leveraging the assets of current and emerging leaders in the field.

[Americans for the Arts](#) is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 50 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Americans for the Arts' mission is to serve, advance, and lead the network of organizations and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support the arts in America. Connecting your best ideas and leaders from the arts, communities, and business, together we can work to ensure that every American has access to the transformative power of the arts.

The [Massachusetts Cultural Council](#) promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. MCC is a state agency committed to building a central place for arts and culture in the everyday lives of communities and pursues this mission through a combination of grants, services and advocacy for cultural organizations, schools, communities and artists.

Created in 1982 by Executive Order, the [President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities](#) (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. The PCAH works directly with the Administration and the three primary cultural agencies—National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services—as well as other federal partners and the private sector, to address policy questions in the arts and humanities, to initiate and support key programs in those disciplines, and to recognize excellence in the field. Its core areas of focus are arts and humanities education, cultural exchange, and community revitalization. Mrs. Michelle Obama, like other first ladies before her, serves as honorary chairman of the committee, which is composed of both private and public members.