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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

December 12, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I want to personally provide you with a copy of *To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence*, a new report published by the National Endowment for the Arts. Its important findings, about the decline of reading in American life, are receiving broad national attention.

This comprehensive report presents the most current and reliable data on Americans' reading habits and skills and the consequences for our nation. Under one cover, we have collected findings of large national surveys conducted by the government, including the U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as well as studies undertaken by foundations, academic and business organizations. The studies include Americans of all ages and education levels and consider reading habits alongside other behaviors and outcomes in areas such as academic achievement, employment and community involvement.

What is revealed are findings that confirm and illuminate those in the National Endowment for the Arts' landmark study, "Reading at Risk." Not only has there been a steady decline in the reading of fiction but also in nonfiction reading and in a variety of formats that include books, magazines, newspapers and online reading. The results prompt three unsettling conclusions:

- 1) Americans are reading less (especially teenagers and young adults);**
- 2) Americans' reading comprehension skills are eroding; and**
- 3) These declines have demonstrable civic, social, and economic implications.**

The purpose of *To Read or Not To Read* is not to dictate any specific remedial policies, but to initiate a serious national discussion about the decline of reading in American life. It is no longer reasonable to debate whether the problem exists, but rather to focus our attention and resources on reversing these disturbing trends.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like a copy of the full report, or additional copies of the executive summary, please contact me or our Government Affairs Office at (202) 682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

November 19, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the first major round of FY 2008 grants.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for December 4, 2007.

We welcome applications for arts projects in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)



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Dana Gioia

Chairman

November 5, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding \$10,000 *Challenge America Fast Track* matching grants to the organizations listed in the enclosure. With *Challenge America* grants, the Arts Endowment provides support for arts projects in underserved communities throughout the United States. For the third consecutive year, the Arts Endowment is awarding one or more grants in every Congressional district.

We encourage you to contact these organizations and congratulate them on their grants. Because of the nature of the process for the Fast Track grants, the organizations may already be aware of the awards. The Endowment is scheduled to announce these grants on November 13.

We welcome grant applications from organizations in your state. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)



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1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

October 18, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

It is with gratitude that we provide you with a booklet showcasing projects supported by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)'s National Initiative called ***American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius***. Announced by Mrs. Laura Bush in January 2004, the NEA's *American Masterpieces* initiative has been made possible with the generous support of Congress.

Our nation's cultural achievements demonstrate a deep connection between creative genius in the arts, science, business and technology, and the protections of individual rights and freedoms. Yet, too few Americans have the opportunity to know the great artistic achievements of their own culture. Americans have created an abundance of great art and this NEA program celebrates it all 50 States and the District of Columbia

Over the last three years, 400 *American Masterpieces* grants totaling nearly \$20 million have helped support projects involving American choral music, dance, literature, visual arts and musical theater. The literature component, called the *Big Read*, alone is helping nearly 200 communities in 2007 to celebrate the reading of great American novels.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure



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www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

October 3, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding six matching grants to organizations in your state to organize *Big Read* programs. They are among 130 communities selected nationwide to participate in the first phase of the 2008 *Big Read* program that will take place between January and June 2008. The Endowment will also provide the organizations with free support materials including reader's guides for students and community participants, teacher's guides, audio introductions to the book, a comprehensive website, and television and radio spots.

At a time when literary reading is rapidly declining among all age groups, the *Big Read* presents the largest reading program in the United States to encourage Americans to discover the joy of reading great literature. During 2007, more than 190 communities were chosen to launch *Big Read* programs.

We welcome your notification of the *Big Read* grant as soon as possible. The organizations and their contacts can be found on the attached sheet. We are calling grantees in early October to invite their participation in a national orientation meeting. After the orientation, the Arts Endowment will issue a national press release on Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Government Affairs staff at (202) 682-5434.

We hope you will join your constituents in participating in the *Big Read*.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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October 2007 Big Read Grants **ILLINOIS**

The following organizations are being awarded matching grants to conduct a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program. These programs will take place between January and June 2008. For more information, please visit www.neabigread.org, or contact the NEA's Office of Government Affairs at (202) 682-5007.

Organization: Beverly Arts Center
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$13,000
Book Selection: *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
Contact: Michael Nix, Executive Director
Phone: (773) 445-3838

Organization: Fremont Public Library
Location: Mundelein, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$2,500
Book Selection: *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
Contact: Scott Davis, Director
Phone: (847) 918-3240

Organization: Danville Area Community College
Location: Danville, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$6,500
Book Selection: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
Contact: Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, President
Phone: (217) 443-8848

Organization: University of Illinois, Board of Trustees
Location: Champaign, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$15,000
Book Selection: *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy
Contact: Walter Knorr, Chief Financial Officer
Phone: (217) 333-2187

Organization: Galesburg Public Library
Location: Galesburg, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$18,000
Book Selection: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
Contact: Pam Van Kirk, Director
Phone: (309) 343-6118

Organization: Peoria Public Library
Location: Peoria, Illinois
Grant Awarded: \$19,000
Book Selection: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
Contact: Edward Szynaka, Library Director
Phone: (309) 497-2140



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Dana Gioia

Chairman

September 14, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding \$10,000 matching grants to 2 organizations in your state. The names of the organizations and descriptions of the projects are on the enclosed page.

We invite you to notify the organization of their grant. We will not make an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the third consecutive year, in Fiscal Year 2007, the Arts Endowment is awarding at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. These direct grants are in addition to the \$41 million awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional arts agencies and their six regional organizations that is sub-granted by them to artists and organizations in your state.

The direct grants are also in addition to grants and educational materials that the Arts Endowment is providing to communities, large and small, in all 50 states through our National Initiatives -- *American Masterpieces*, *The Big Read*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Recitation Contest*, and programs for military personnel and their families -- *Operation Homecoming* writing workshops and *Great American Voices Military Base Tour*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

August 22, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

The NEA National Heritage Fellowships is one of the National Endowment for the Arts' proudest achievements. In no other country could you celebrate a tapestry comprising such a diversity of cultural traditions.

Enclosed is a copy of a retrospective book showcasing 25 years of the NEA National Heritage Fellows. It's a great read. And I expect that you will enjoy the magnificent DVD-ROM that contains biographies, interviews, music and samples of the work of the 327 recipients of the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

The 2007 awards will be made at a morning ceremony in the Cannon Caucus Room on September 18 and at a free concert at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda on September 20. You will receive an invitation to both events sponsored by the NEA with funding from the Darden Restaurant Foundation.

We will make every effort to inform you of upcoming events in your State that will celebrate the achievements of your constituents who have received the NEA National Fellowship. You can access a continuously updated list of them at http://www.arts.gov/honors/heritage/25th_events.html.

If you have any questions about this program or any other matter regarding the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202/682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



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www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia

Chairman

August 6, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding matching grants to 2 organizations in your state. The names of the organizations and descriptions of the projects are on the enclosed page.

We invite you to notify the organizations of their grants. We will not make an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the third consecutive year, in Fiscal Year 2007, the Arts Endowment is awarding at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. These direct grants are in addition to the \$41 million awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional arts agencies and their six regional organizations that is sub-granted by them to artists and organizations in your state.

The direct grants are also in addition to grants and educational materials that the Arts Endowment is providing to communities, large and small, in all 50 states through our National Initiatives -- *American Masterpieces*, *The Big Read*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Recitation Contest*, and programs for military personnel and their families -- *Operation Homecoming* writing workshops and *Great American Voices Military Base Tour*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Already answered
United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 2, 2007

National Endowment For The Arts
100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 525
Washington, D.C. 20506
GRANT00285146

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for [REDACTED] application for the *Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth* grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. [REDACTED] is seeking funding in order to support their [REDACTED] program entitled, "[REDACTED]". The project will foster [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Illinois. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I have confidence that this project will prove valuable in addressing the educational needs of Chicago's minority youth, and therefore I support [REDACTED]' application for the *Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth* grant. (b)(5)

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator



1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 526
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 682-5409
Fax (202) 682-5668
www.pcqh.gov



1800 M Street, NW
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 653-IMLS
Fax (202) 653-4600
www.ims.gov



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1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 682-5400
Fax (202) 682-5611
www.arts.gov



1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 606-8400
Fax (202) 606-8240
www.neh.gov

June 27, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that an organization in your district, The Chicago Humanities Festival, has been selected to receive a 2007 *Coming Up Taller* award. The awards are an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and are made possible in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The *Coming Up Taller* awards recognize exemplary programs that engage young people in the arts and the humanities outside the regular school day. These awards celebrate the significant contributions that artists and arts organizations, historians and humanities scholars, and museums and libraries make in helping children learn and achieve.

We offer you the opportunity to inform and congratulate your constituents of their award as soon as possible. The contact information is attached. The award winners will be contacted by the agencies later this week.

Later this year, the award winners will be announced publicly. They will also be invited to Washington, DC, to be honored in a ceremony at which they will receive a formal plaque and the \$10,000 award.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of these programs that are so vital to young people by personally attending the ceremony. Last year's event was hosted by Mrs. Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the President's Committee, at the White House. We will notify your office when the 2007 ceremony is scheduled.

If you have any questions about the *Coming Up Taller* awards, please do not hesitate to contact Ann Guthrie Hingston, Director of Government Affairs at the National Endowment for the Arts, at (202) 682-5434, who will respond on behalf of us all.

Sincerely,

Henry Moran
Executive Director
President's Committee on the
Arts and the Humanities

Anne-Imelda M. Radice
Director
Institute of Museum and
Library Services

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

Bruce Cole
Chairman
National Endowment for the
Humanities



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I want to extend a special invitation to you as an Illinois Senator to join me and the Trustees of the Poetry Foundation of Chicago in congratulating the 2007 *Poetry Out Loud* state champions at a lunch on **Tuesday, May 1 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Room G-50 Dirksen**. The Poetry Foundation is hosting the Capitol Hill lunch for some 200 students, teachers, and parents from all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

The **2007 Illinois State Champion** is **Robi Mahan**, who attends **Harrisburg High School** located in **Harrisburg**.

The *Poetry Out Loud* state champions will be in Washington to compete for the **national title** and a **\$20,000 scholarship award**. The national competition will be conducted on April 30, with the top 12 students advancing to the finals on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. Both events will take place at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, located at 730 21st Street, NW. It is an exciting competition that you and your staff may want to attend as well.

The NEA's *Poetry Out Loud* program, conducted in partnership with The Poetry Foundation of Chicago, is engaging high school students nationwide in memorizing and performing great poetry. During the past several months, more than 200,000 high school students have competed in their classrooms, schools, and towns with the winners advancing to the state competition. Each state champion received \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete in the national finals. Each school received \$500 for the purchase of poetry books for its school library.

I have enclosed additional information about the program and our newsletter covering the events of last year's national finals. I hope you are able to join us in honoring our 2007 *Poetry Out Loud* state champions. We will contact your office in a few days to see if your schedule permits. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me or Shana Chase, NEA's Congressional Liaison, at (202) 682-5773.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



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Dana Gioia
Chairman

April 4, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your district will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the second major round of FY 2007 grants.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for April 23, 2007.

We welcome applications for arts projects in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)



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Washington, DC 20506-0001
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Dana Gioia

Chairman

December 6, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am delighted to inform you that an organization in your state, the Joffrey Ballet, has been selected to receive a *Save America's Treasures* grant of \$75,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to support conservation treatment on the video archives of the Joffrey Ballet. More information about this project is on the enclosed page.

This is one of 5 *Save America's Treasures* grants that the Arts Endowment is awarding to help preserve or conserve nationally significant collections, documents, statues and works of art, including intellectual and cultural artifacts.

We are pleased to join with our partner agencies - the National Park Service, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services and President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities - in support of this outstanding program.

Enclosed are a press release and list of this year's awards. If you have any questions, please contact me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202/682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANTS

FY 2007

The Joffrey Ballet

Chicago, IL

06-604979

Grant Amount: \$75,000

To support conservation treatment on the video archives of the Joffrey Ballet.

The Joffrey Ballet, founded in New York in 1956 by the late Robert Joffrey and current Artistic Director Gerlad Arpino, began as a small company of six dancers touring the United States. The company became known for bringing modern dance technique into ballet and commissioning the first major ballets of such notable American choreographers as Alvin Ailey, Laura Dean, Mark Morris, and Twyla Tharp. It also is notable for its reconstruction of lost works from the early 20th century. No other ballet company in America boasts such a large repertoire of 20th century works, with more than 250 ballets by 90 choreographers. Throughout its 50-year history, the Joffrey has kept a video archive, now numbering approximately 2,500 videos of performances, rehearsals, and workshops. Unfortunately, many of those videos are now in a significant state of deterioration due to age and improper storage.

Save America's Treasures funding will enable the company to salvage the most important and most endangered videos in the archive. A professional video preservation firm will produce video master copies in a stable format, in addition to a DVD copy of use as a reference for the Joffrey and outside researchers and scholars.

Contact:

Jon H. Teeuwissen, Executive Director (pronounced TAY vis sun)

312/739-0120

jteeuwissen@joffrey.com



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www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia
Chairman

November 16, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the first major round of FY 2007 grants. These grants are dependent upon receipt by the Endowment of its FY 2007 appropriation.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for December 13, 2006.

We welcome applications for arts projects in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

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Dana Gioia
Chairman

November 15, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am pleased to inform you that four organizations have been selected to launch the *Big Read* in your State. Eighty-five cities competed to participate in the first round of our 2007 program. Please see the attached list for the names of the organizations selected in your State.

The National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is awarding matching grants to engage the old and young alike in reading and discussing works of American literature. In addition, each grantee is receiving free support materials – reading guides for student and community participants, a teacher's supplement for the classroom, a comprehensive website, and marketing materials for print, television and radio.

At a time when literary reading is rapidly declining among all age groups, the *Big Read* presents the largest reading program in the United States to encourage Americans to discover the joys of reading great literature. Piloted in 2006, the *Big Read* is now expanding to include towns and cities throughout the country using the models and materials developed and refined during the pilot phase.

We welcome your announcement of the *Big Read* grant. Enclosed is a media release for this round of grantees. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the NEA's Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

I hope you will participate in the *Big Read* events in your State.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman



National Endowment for the Arts The Big Read

Programs from January through June 2007

Illinois Grants

The following organizations are being awarded matching grants to conduct a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program. For more information, go to www.neabigread.org.

Sandburg Days Festival
Galesburg, IL
\$20,000

To engage the community of Galesburg in reading and discussing *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

Cook Memorial Public Library District
Libertyville, IL
\$6,000

To engage the community of Lake County in reading and discussing *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Peoria Public Library
Peoria, IL
\$13,350

To engage the community of Peoria in reading and discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Sterling Public Library
Sterling, IL
\$14,850

To engage the community of Sterling in reading and discussing *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.



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Dana Gioia

Chairman

November 3, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that, pending receipt of FY 2007 Appropriations funding, the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding one or more grants in your state under the *Challenge America Fast Track* grants program. With *Challenge America* grants, the Arts Endowment provides support for arts projects in underserved communities throughout the United States.

We encourage you to contact the organizations and notify them of their grant. The Endowment is scheduled to announce these grants to the press on December 19, 2006.

We welcome grant applications from organizations in your state. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

Office of the Chairman

October 6, 2006

The Honorable Barak Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am delighted to inform you that your constituent, Ramsey Lewis of Chicago, has been selected by the National Endowment for the Arts to receive the 2007 NEA Jazz Masters award, the nation's highest honor in jazz. This year's other NEA Jazz Masters are Toshiko Akiyoshi, Curtis Fuller, Dan Morgenstern, Jimmy Scott, Frank W. Wess and Phil Woods. Each Master will receive a one-time fellowship of \$25,000. Enclosed is biographical information about your constituent.

We invite you to join us at the 2007 NEA Jazz Masters events on January 12th at the New York Hilton Hotel. Thousands of jazz musicians, students, educators and representatives of the jazz industry will gather there at the annual conference of the International Association for Jazz Education.

Since 1982, eighty great figures in American music have been designated as NEA Jazz Masters. Past recipients include Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Billy Taylor and others.

To showcase the great music of the NEA Jazz Masters, we have established a NEA Jazz Masters on Tour program that will include performances in all 50 states and educational materials for high school teachers and students.

With Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Endowment has developed educational materials for teachers to use in high school music, social studies and Black History Month classes. For information on how to obtain these free materials, educators should log on to the NEA web site or <http://media.jalc.org/nea/home.php>.

If you would like to attend any of these events or have any questions, please contact me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Gioia" clearly distinguishable.

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

Enclosure



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

September 27, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding matching grants of \$10,000 each to organizations in your state. Descriptions of the projects are on the enclosed page.

We invite you to notify the organizations of their grant. We will not do an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the second year, in Fiscal Year 2006, the Arts Endowment has awarded at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. The direct grants are in addition to the \$41,631,100 the Endowment has awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional, and 6 regional arts agencies that is sub-granted by them. Also, the Arts Endowment provides artistic excellence, broad public access and arts education in all 50 States through our National Initiatives, such as *American Masterpieces*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Competition*, the *Big Read*, *Operation Homecoming*, and *Great American Voices*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

September 26, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U. S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

(b)(5)

Thank you for your letter in support of a grant application submitted by [REDACTED]. We appreciate knowing of your support for this project.

The application has been received by the agency and is currently under review for a Learning in the Arts grant. The three-step review process will continue with final grant decisions scheduled to be announced in April of 2007.

(b)(5)

Please be assured that the application for [REDACTED] will receive every consideration as the review process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-682-5434 if we can be of assistance regarding this or any other matter concerning the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Guthrie Hingston".

Ann Guthrie Hingston
Director of Government Affairs
National Endowment for the Arts



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

September 26, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U. S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter in support of a grant application submitted by the Lira Ensemble. We appreciate knowing of your support for this project.

The application has been received by the agency and is currently under review for a Challenge America grant. The three-step review process will continue with final grant decisions scheduled to be announced in April of 2007.

Please be assured that the application for the Lira Ensemble will receive every consideration as the review process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-682-5434 if we can be of assistance regarding this or any other matter concerning the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann Guthrie Hingston".

Ann Guthrie Hingston
Director of Government Affairs
National Endowment for the Arts



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 28, 2006

Ms. Ann Guthrie Hingston
Director, Office of Congressional Liaison
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 524
Washington, D.C. 20506-0001

Dear Director Hingston,

I am writing to offer my support for the Lira Ensemble's application for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. They are seeking the grant in order to fund a series of "Polish Holiday Concerts" in three cities throughout the Midwest.

Polish Americans make up a significant ethnic portion of Chicago as well as the United States as a whole. The Lira Ensemble seeks to celebrate this community's cultural heritage through song, dance, and music. With this grant, the group plans to provide free concerts in suburbs and neighborhoods where there is a significant Polish American presence. The Lira Ensemble has been putting on similar concerts in Chicago for the past twenty-three years.

I believe these concerts can provide an avenue for cross-cultural sharing and education. Therefore, I support the Lira Ensemble's application for a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

August 11, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding a matching grant to an organization in your state. The Endowment is awarding \$10,000 to the John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Foundation in Mt. Vernon to support production of a catalogue of the permanent collection and an informational poster. The Cedarhurst Center for the Arts will issue a scholarly, full-color publication documenting the museum's American paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and decorative arts in a 2,500-copy run. Posters highlighting the museum's holdings will be distributed without charge to local school students. The project will help make the collection better known to scholars and others interested in America art to support production of a catalogue of the permanent collection and an informational poster.

We invite you to notify the organization of their grant. We will not do an announcement to the national media but will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for their use in responding to the local media.

For the second year, in Fiscal Year 2006, the Arts Endowment has awarded at least one direct grant in all 435 Congressional districts. The direct grants are in addition to the \$41,631,100 the Endowment has awarded to the 56 State and jurisdictional, and 6 regional arts agencies that is sub-granted by them. Also, the Arts Endowment provides artistic excellence, broad public access and arts education in all 50 States through our National Initiatives, such as *American Masterpieces*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, *NEA Jazz Masters on tour*, *Poetry Out Loud: High School Poetry Competition*, the *Big Read*, *Operation Homecoming*, and *Great American Voices*.

We welcome applications for arts projects from your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dana Gioia".

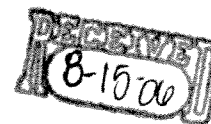
Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2006

Ms. Ann Guthrie Hingston
National Endowment For The Arts
100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 525
Washington, D.C. 20506



Dear Ms. Guthrie Hingston:

I am writing to offer my support of [REDACTED]' application for the *Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth* grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. They are seeking funding in order to support a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Illinois. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I believe this project could prove valuable in addressing the educational needs of [REDACTED] minority youth through a distinct and commendable [REDACTED] program, and therefore I support [REDACTED] application to the *Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth* grant. (b)(5)

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

June 9, 2006

Office of the Chairman

The Honorable Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am delighted to inform you that your constituent, Mavis Staples of Chicago, has been chosen as 2006 NEA National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. Your constituent has been chosen to receive this high award from the U.S. Government because of her extraordinary expertise and strong commitment to passing on her skills and cultural traditions to a new generation.

We invite you to be a member of the Honorary Host Committee comprising Members of Congress who will be listed on the formal invitation for the NEA National Heritage events. Enclosed is a copy of last year's invitation. Including your name on the Host Committee requires no other commitment.

The 2006 NEA National Heritage Fellows will be honored at three events in Washington, DC and Bethesda:

- On Wednesday evening, September 13th, at 6:30 pm at a banquet in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress, the NEA Heritage Fellows will be honored and given an opportunity to speak about their cultural traditions.
- On Thursday morning, September 14th, in the Cannon Caucus Room, we will present Fellows with the NEA National Heritage Fellowship, including an award of \$20,000. Members of Congress are invited to present the award to their constituent.
- On Friday evening, September 15th, at the new Strathmore Hall in Bethesda, Maryland, the accomplishments of the NEA Heritage Fellows will be showcased in a free public concert that is later broadcast on the radio. Every year this event is packed.

I hope that you will be able to join me at one or all of these events. We will send you more information about the events as they approach.

Enclosed is a copy of the press release announcing these awards, embargoed to June 15th.

Should you want to honor your constituent in your home State or meet with her in Washington, we would be happy to facilitate such events. Please contact me or Mike Burke Kirby of the NEA's Government Affairs staff at 202/682-5067.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

May 24, 2006

The Honorable Barak Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Knowing of your love of music, we would be honored for you to attend and, if you wish, participate in "America Sings!" on Sunday, June 11 at 2 pm at Strathmore Hall in Bethesda, Maryland. We invite you to participate on stage by reading a portion of a narration that relates the history of American choral music.

At this auspicious event, the National Endowment for the Arts will celebrate American choral music from the early days of the Republic until the present. Music will be performed by the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps and the U.S. Army Orchestra with singing by the Army Chorus and 14 other choruses. We look forward to the enthusiastic participation of the audience that will include choral directors from throughout the United States who will be in town for Chorus America's annual conference.

The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to host this extraordinary event that launches a year of choral festivals across the United States, as part of *American Masterpieces*. Admission will be ticketed and free to the public.

The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to host this extraordinary event to officially launch a year of choral festivals across the country, as part of the Endowment's national initiative, *American Masterpieces*.

Enclosed is a draft program of the event. We look forward to hearing that you will participate with us on June 11th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ann Guthrie Hingston, NEA's Director of Government Affairs at 202-682-5028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



Established 1965
May 9, 2006

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We would be honored for you to join us in giving brief remarks to welcome the 51 high school State *Poetry Out Loud* Champions on **Tuesday, May 16 at a breakfast we are hosting in G-50 Dirksen** from 9 am to 10 am. **Remarks are scheduled for 9:15 am.**

As a Senator who represents The Poetry Foundation, located in Chicago, it is most fitting for you to congratulate the students who have memorized and mastered the performance of great poetry. Over the last six months, more than 250,000 high school students have competed in their schools, towns and State Capitols.

The Illinois State Champion, **Ariela Rotenberg of Chicago** who attends Walter Payton College Prep, will compete in a regional heat that afternoon. The top 12 will advance to the finals that begin at 7:30 pm at the Lincoln Theater in Washington, DC.

The Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts are proud to sponsor this national competition to encourage high school students to learn and perform great poetry. Not only are they learning great language, the students are learning diction, posture and how to present themselves – skills invaluable in life. We expect much media attention of these events including coverage by the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*.

We look forward to hearing that you will speak at the breakfast. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ann Guthrie Hingston, Director of NEA's Office of Government Affairs at 202-682-5028.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

April 10, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20515

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the second major round of FY 2006 grants.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. This round of grants also includes Learning in the Arts for children and youth and Partnership grants to state and regional arts agencies. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for April 20, 2006. Many of the organizations may already know that they will be receiving a grant; but they will also be aware of the press embargo.

We welcome applications for arts projects from organizations in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

Enclosure(s)



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

April 3, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that *Inspirations from the Forest*, a 16-panel exhibition of art, music and poetry highlighting the cultural traditions of those who live and work in our nation's forests and rangelands, will be in Illinois at the Shawnee National Forest in Jonesboro from April 13th through April 28th.

During 2006, this exhibition will be displayed at 33 venues in or near National Forests or Grasslands in 21 states. With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the USDA's Forest Service, *Inspirations from the Forest*, was produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage to commemorate the Forest Service's Centennial.

This is one of some 200 arts projects made possible over the past decade by the National Endowment for the Arts partnering with the USDA Forest Service to provide quality arts experiences to rural and underserved communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



Established 1965

December 12, 2005

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

The Honorable Barack Obama
713 Hart
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you of an exciting new competition that will engage high school students in memorizing and performing great poetry in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Beginning in January, the National Endowment for the Arts is sponsoring the *Poetry Out Loud* national recitation contest to help students learn great poems, master public speaking skills and learn about their literary heritage. Competitions in high schools will be followed by a State *Poetry Out Loud* Competition in each Capital City in April. State Poetry Champions will compete in the National Finals on May 16th in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, May 16th, 2006, we invite you to join us at a Capitol Hill breakfast honoring the 51 State Champions. We will notify you of the name of your State Champion and the details of the event closer to the date.

To manage this program in your State, the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding a grant of \$8,000 to Illinois Arts Council. In addition, the NEA is providing schools and students with print and online poetry anthologies, an instructors guide to teach recitation and performance, and an audio CD featuring performances of distinguished actors and writers. All curriculum materials will also be available on the *Poetry Out Loud* website, at: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org>

Poetry Out Loud is a National Initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts developed in partnership with The Poetry Foundation of Chicago and the State Arts Agencies.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Government Affairs staff at 202-682-5434. We welcome your announcement, personal involvement and sponsorship of this exciting new program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

November 25, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the first major round of FY 2006 grants.

These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals and training programs. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We will soon distribute an announcement of these grants to the national press, embargoed for December 8, 2005.

We welcome applications for arts projects in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 143

STATE:	Illinois		
TOTAL:	Illinois	41 GRANT(S) APPROVED	\$1,058,000
CITY:	Chicago		
DISTRICT:	02		
TOTAL FOR District 02/Chicago		1 grant(s) approved	\$22,000

APPROVED GRANTEE	AMOUNT APPROVED
------------------	-----------------

Resource Center	\$22,000
222 E. 135th Place	
Chicago, IL 60827	
Ken Dunn, Authorizing Official	

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Design
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a consortium project for educational programming and a residency concerning sustainable design. Working with the School of the Art Institute, the Resource Center will introduce environmentally sensitive design practices to the community.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 144

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 04

TOTAL FOR District 04/Chicago 3 grant(s) approved \$98,000

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Northwestern University \$8,000
Settlement Association
1400 W. Augusta Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60622
Ron Manderschied, Authorizing Official

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a production of "Still Life With Iris" by Steven Dietz. The play will be produced as part of the Vittum Theater's Season for Young Audiences, a series of productions that provides teachers and students with performances that engage students on both personal and academic levels.

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum \$70,000
1832 West 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Carlos Tortolero, Authorizing Official

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Museum
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support The African Experience in Mexico, with accompanying catalogues and education programs. The project consists of two touring exhibitions The African Experience in Mexico and Who Are We Now? Roots, Resistance, and Recognition.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 145

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 04

MULTISTATE GRANT(S)

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum
1832 West 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Carlos Tortolero, Authorizing Official

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Presenting

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a consortium project of performances demonstrating the heritage shared by Mexicans and African Americans. In collaboration with Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago, the museum will present Yanga Lives, a joint performance with La Negra Graciana, the harpist/singer and master of the son jarocho musical style.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 146

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 05

TOTAL FOR District 05/Chicago 4 grant(s) approved \$110,000

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Theatre Building Chicago, NFP
1225 W. Belmont Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
Joan Mazzone, Authorizing Official

\$10,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Musical Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the public presentation of new musicals-in-progress. The Stages Festival will present as many as eight musicals, selected from more than 100 submissions, to be performed as concert readings or skeletal productions.

Victory Gardens Theater
2257 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614
Robert Alpaugh, Authorizing Official

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the world premiere production of A Fair to Middling Woman by Kristine Thatcher. The play will explore the life of Suzanne Deschevaux-Dumesnil, wife of playwright Samuel Beckett.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 147

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 05

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
1517 W. Fullerton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614
David Edelberg, Authorizing Official

\$65,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Media Arts
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the 23rd Chicago International Childrens' Film Festival and related media arts programs for children. Activities will include animation workshops, a media arts camp, media literacy courses, curriculum development, and special exhibitions of films for children and their families throughout the year.

Old Town School of Folk Music, Inc.
4544 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
David Roche, Authorizing Official

\$15,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Presenting
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Main Stage Concert Series. The series will feature international, national, and local musicians who represent an array of musical genres from around the globe.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 148

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

TOTAL FOR District 07/Chicago 20 grant(s) approved \$607,000

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
220 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604
Deborah Card, Authorizing Official

\$40,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the production, presentation, and radio broadcast of concerts and reading sessions. Performances and reading sessions will be given under the direction of resident and guest conductors and offered to the public at no charge to attract more culturally and economically diverse audiences.

Chicago Chamber Musicians
180 N. Stetson Avenue
Suite 1330
Chicago, IL 60601
Amy Iwano, Authorizing Official

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a consortium project for the creation and presentation of a new work by NEA Jazz Master Paquito D'Rivera and related residency activities. consortium partner Grant Park Orchestral Association will coordinate marketing strategies to target Latino community audiences for the new work that will combine classical, jazz, and Afro-Cuban influences.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 149

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
220 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604
Deborah Card, Authorizing Official

\$75,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support Afterwork Masterworks and Beyond the Score. The audience development programs are designed to reach new audiences through alternative and informal concert formats.

Chicago Sinfonietta
70 E. Lake Street
Suite 226
Chicago, IL 60601
Nancy Goldenberg, Authorizing Official

\$10,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support performances of works by Gustav Holst and Daniel Bernard Roumain and related educational activities. The works to be performed include Holst's The Planets with a projected video presentation produced by the Adler Planetarium and Roumain's Voodoo Concerto for Violin No. 1, featuring the composer as soloist.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 150

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Redmoon Theater
1438 W. Kinzie Street
Chicago, IL 60622
Gillian Darlow, Authorizing Official

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the production of a new, large-scale, site-specific outdoor work, conceived and directed by Artistic Director Jim Lasko. Chicago's Olive Park will be transformed into a place of celebration using unique theatrical language and a highly visual performance aesthetic.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company
758 W. North Avenue
4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60610
David Hawkanson, Authorizing Official

\$25,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the production of a play. Loves-Lies-Bleeding by Don DeLillo will be directed by Amy Morton.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 151

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Dramatists
1105 W. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622
Brian Loevner, Authorizing Official

\$8,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Readings and Workshops Program. The project will include table readings, public staged readings, and workshops involving local artists and audiences in the creative process to develop new work.

Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
Kim Clement, Authorizing Official

\$30,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Dance
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the presentation of DanceAfrica Chicago 2006, and a series of contemporary dance presentations. The project includes community engagement and public education programs.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 152

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
1147 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60607
Gail Kalver, Authorizing Official

\$30,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Dance
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a program for emerging choreographers to create new work. Program for Emerging and Developing Artists will create five new works using the following projects: the Inside/Out Choreographic Workshop for company dancers, the National Choreographic Competition, and collaborations between choreographers and Hubbard Street 2.

Joffrey Ballet of Chicago
70 E. Lake Street
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601
Jon H Teeuwissen, Authorizing Official

\$30,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Dance
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the presentation of two ballets. The ballets include a revival of Twyla Tharp's Deuce Coupe performed to music by the Beach Boys, and a newly commissioned work titled Motown Suite, by choreographer Donald Byrd.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
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PAGE: 153

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago International Film Festival -
Cinema Chicago
30 East Adams Street
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60603
Sophia Wong Boccio, Authorizing Official

\$19,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Media Arts
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the 42nd Chicago International Film Festival. More than 60,000 people will see 140 films from around the world.

Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603
Brian Esker, Authorizing Official

\$21,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Media Arts
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support Celebrating American Diversity in Cinema. This curated film series will present premieres of contemporary American independent and foreign films to an estimated audience of 32,000 people.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 154

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Opera Theater
70 E. Lake Street
Suite 815
Chicago, IL 60601
Brian Dickie, Authorizing Official

\$10,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Opera
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Chicago premiere of "Nixon In China" by John Adams, and related outreach activities. Events will include a symposium with the composer; a forum led by current Northwestern University professor Dr. Lee Heubner who served as special assistant to President Nixon; and a discussion with a Chicago Symphony Orchestra violinist about his coming-of-age experience in Shanghai during the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

Lyric Opera of Chicago
20 North Wacker Drive
Suite 860
Chicago, IL 60606
William Mason, Authorizing Official

\$100,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Opera
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a new production of "Iphigenie en Tauride" by Christoph Willibald Gluck. The 1774 work embodies significant reforms to opera that forever changed the development of the operatic genre.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 155

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Architecture Foundation
224 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604
Lynn Osmond, Authorizing Official

\$17,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Design

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a series of seminars that will educate business, government, and neighborhood leaders on design issues. The project will promote architectural innovation in community design guidelines, mixed-use development, affordable housing, public housing, and community centers.

Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Robert Fitzpatrick, Authorizing Official

\$40,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Presenting

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the presentation of new performing and visual arts programs including a Festival of Disability Arts and Culture. Project activities will include performances, residencies, a mural project, a photography exhibition, an institute, and dance competitions.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 156

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago

DISTRICT: 07

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation
200 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 404
Chicago, IL 60601
Alene Valkanas, Authorizing Official

\$18,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Local Arts Agencies

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support Peer Coaching Circles With the guidance of trained facilitators, Illinois-based local arts agency staff members will acquire skills enabling them to better meet operational challenges.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 157.

STATE: Illinois
CITY: Chicago
DISTRICT: 07

MULTISTATE GRANT(S)

APPROVED GRANTEE	AMOUNT APPROVED
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Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603
Brian Esker, Authorizing Official

\$40,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Media Arts
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the transfer of works in its videotape collection from analog to digital Betacam format. The transfer will facilitate distribution on DVD and allow the titles to be viewed through video streaming on the Web.

Lyric Opera Center for American Artists
20 N. Wacker Drive
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60606
Richard Pearlman, Authorizing Official

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Opera
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support faculty costs for a comprehensive singer training and professional development program. Faculty will provide a multidisciplinary curriculum to prepare young artists for professional operatic careers.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 158

STATE: Illinois
CITY: Chicago
DISTRICT: 07

MULTISTATE GRANT(S)

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Congress for the New Urbanism
140 S. Dearborn Street
The Marquette Bldg., Suite 310
Chicago, IL 60603
John Norquist, Authorizing Official

\$34,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Design
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a publication, workshops, and tool kit to improve road design.
he project will develop tools to assist local community leaders to create
better communities.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 159

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Barrington

DISTRICT: 08

TOTAL FOR District 08/Barrington 1 grant(s) approved \$7,500

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Northshore Concert Band	\$7,500
422 E. Oakwood Drive	
Barrington, IL 60010	
David Zyer, Authorizing Official	

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the commission and performance of a fanfare by composer Frank Ticheli. The work will be premiered under the direction of Artistic Director Mallory Thompson, with subsequent performances conducted by Music Director Richard Fischer.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 160

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago, Evanston, Skokie
DISTRICT: 09

TOTAL FOR District 09/ 7 grant(s) approved \$88,000
Chicago, Evanston, Skokie

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Chicago Jazz Orchestra Association
6051 N. Mozart Avenue
Unit 3
Chicago, IL 60659
Jeff Lindberg, Authorizing Official

\$10,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the music transcription and presentation of Exquisitely for Ella:
The Songbook Concert. The concert, a tribute to the 1950s and 60s songbook
recordings of Ella Fitzgerald, will be the first public performances of the
selections as they were originally arranged and recorded.

About Face Theatre Collective
1222 W. Wilson
2nd Floor West
Chicago, IL 60640
Gregory Copeland, Authorizing Official

\$18,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the development and premiere of a play adapted from a literary work.
In collaboration with New York City's Classic Stage Company, Monsieur
Proust, a new play by Tony Award-winning playwright Mary Zimmerman, will be
produced.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 161

STATE: Illinois
CITY: Chicago, Evanston, Skokie
DISTRICT: 09

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Neo-Futurists
5153 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640
Andra Velis Simon, Authorizing Official

\$8,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support a world premiere production. Written and directed by founding director Greg Allen, the production will explore humanity's historical relationship and fascination with explosives and aerial warfare.

Chicago Filmmakers
5243 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640
Brenda Webb, Authorizing Official

\$14,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Media Arts
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Independent Film and Video Exhibition Series and the presentation of the 18th Onion City Film Festival. The Independent Film and Video Exhibition Series emphasizes documentary and experimental films and videos; the Onion City Film Festival is dedicated to exhibiting experimental work.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 162

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago, Evanston, Skokie
DISTRICT: 09

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Next Theatre Company
927 Noyes Street
Evanston, IL 60201
John Collins, Authorizing Official

\$12,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Musical Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the premiere production of a new chamber musical adapted from a play. The Adding Machine by Joshua Schmidt and Jason Loewith will be based on the play by Elmer Rice.

Piven Theatre Workshop
927 Noyes Street
Evanston, IL 60201
Jennifer Sultz, Authorizing Official

\$8,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the world premiere production of Lady Chaplin and Her Tramp, a new play by Michael Stock. Associate Artistic Director Jennifer Green will direct.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
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PAGE: 163

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Chicago, Evanston, Skokie
DISTRICT: 09

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Northlight Theatre, Inc.
9501 Skokie Boulevard
Skokie, IL 60077
Philip Santora, Authorizing Official

\$18,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Theater
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the continued development and second production of Grace by Craig Wright, directed by Dexter Bullard. Wright will be in residence at the theater for the rehearsal process and reworking of the script.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 164

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Monee, Normal
DISTRICT: 11

TOTAL FOR District 11/ 3 grant(s) approved \$82,500
Monee, Normal

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Trice, Dawn Turner
25546 Pinewood Lane
Monee, IL 60449

\$20,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Literature
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 165

STATE: Illinois
CITY: Monee, Normal
DISTRICT: 11

MULTISTATE GRANT(S)

APPROVED GRANTEE	AMOUNT APPROVED
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Dalkey Archive Press
Illinois State University
Campus Box 8905
Normal, IL 61790
John O'Brien, Authorizing Official

\$55,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Literature
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the publication and promotion of original and reprinted works of fiction and creative nonfiction in translation. The press will publish titles from Belgium, Mexico, Finland, Ireland, Uruguay, Russia, England, France, Portugal, Brazil, Spain, and Romania.

Writer's Review, Inc.
Illinois State University
Campus Box 4241
Normal, IL 61790
Charles B. Harris, Authorizing Official

\$7,500

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Literature
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the publication, promotion, and distribution of issues of American Book Review. The journal will increase honoraria to writers and help launch a subscription drive aimed at libraries.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV, 2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 166

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Elgin
DISTRICT: 14

TOTAL FOR District 14/Elgin 1 grant(s) approved \$18,000

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

Elgin Symphony Orchestra Association
20 DuPage Court
Elgin, IL 60120
Michael Pastreich, Authorizing Official

\$18,000

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Music
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support In Search of the American Dream Festival. Plans include a month-long festival of concerts, interdisciplinary events, educational programs, and a taping of the young artist radio program From the Top for later national broadcast.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): NOV,2005
AS OF 11/17/05

PAGE: 167

STATE: Illinois

CITY: Champaign
DISTRICT: 15

TOTAL FOR District 15/Champaign 1 grant(s) approved \$25,000

APPROVED GRANTEE

AMOUNT APPROVED

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	\$25,000
109 Coble Hall	
801 S. Wright Street	
Champaign, IL 61820	
Charles Zukoski, Authorizing Official	

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Presenting

CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Dance Immersion Project. A key component of the project will be the development of a rich array of enhancement activities such as discussions with artists and audience members, panel discussions, and master classes that will focus on the element of music in dance.



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

Office of the Chairman

November 16, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding one or more grants in your state under the FY 2006 *Challenge America Fast Track* grant program. The Endowment's *Challenge America* program was established by Congress in 2001 to provide greater support for arts projects in underserved communities through the United States.

We encourage you to contact the organizations and notify them of their grant. The Endowment is scheduled to announce these grants on December 1, 2005.

We welcome grant applications from organizations in your state. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF FY 06 GRANTS FOR SENATORS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS MEETING(S): MAR,2006
AS OF 11/14/05

PAGE: 36

STATE:	Illinois		
TOTAL:	Illinois	5 GRANT(S) APPROVED	\$50,000
CITY:	Chicago		
DISTRICT:	05		
TOTAL FOR District 05/Chicago		1 grant(s) approved	\$10,000

APPROVED GRANTEE	AMOUNT APPROVED
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Chicago Moving Company	\$10,000
Hamlin Park Fieldhouse	
3035 N. Hoyne Avenue	
Chicago, IL 60618	
Nana Shineflug, Authorizing Official	

DISCIPLINE/FIELD: Challenge America Fast-Track Review
CATEGORY: Access to Artistic Excellence

To support the Other Dance Festival 2006. This three-week concert series will feature Chicago modern dance artists and companies in performance at an inner-city park located in the Hamlin Park Roscoe Village community.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202 682 5400

Office of the Chairman

August 12, 2005

The Honorable Barak Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am pleased to inform you that one of your constituents, Christian Wiman, of Chicago, has been chosen to read his work at the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Pavilion at the National Book Festival on Saturday, September 24. For the third year, the National Endowment for the Arts is presenting a full day of poetry on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Much of the proceedings will be broadcast on C-SPAN.

We invite you and your family to join us, the Library of Congress and Mrs. Laura Bush for a fun day listening to more than 80 award winning authors, illustrators and poets talk about their work and sign copies of their books. This year the free festival poster is designed by famous children's illustrator, Jerry Pinkney, who serves on the National Council on the Arts, the Endowment's board.

We have enclosed information about your constituents and a preliminary list of participating authors, illustrators and poets as of July 25. Information about them and the festival is available at www.loc.gov/bookfest.

Please contact our Congressional Liaison staff at 682-5434 if you would like the schedule of readings in the Poetry Pavilion or should you want to meet with your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

Office of the Chairman

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Barak Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is awarding a matching grant to an organization in your state. The Endowment is awarding \$10,000 to the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to support presentation of the Wall-to-Wall Guitar Festival. The four-day festival will feature the sounds of guitar in all its global variety, from blues, classical, country, jazz, and rock to the rich instrumental traditions of Africa and the Middle East. In addition to concerts/recitals by top guitarists, the schedule includes lecture-demonstrations, master classes, question-and-answer opportunities, free performances, and jam sessions. Krannert Center aims to develop new performing arts audiences from among the 18 to 35 year-olds whose exposure to live performance is limited.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Arts Endowment awarded direct grants to 99% of the Congressional districts. The direct grants, Shakespeare in American Communities and NEA Jazz masters tours in every state are in addition to the \$34 million that the Endowment provides annually to the 56 State and jurisdictional arts agencies to help support arts projects.

We invite you to notify the organization of their grant. We will not do an announcement to the national media; we will provide a fact sheet to the grantees for them to use in dealing with local media.

We welcome applications for arts projects from organizations in your state. Application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov.

Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please do not hesitate to call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 526
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 682-5409
Fax (202) 682-5668
www.pcah.gov



1800 M Street, NW
Ninth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 653-4657
Fax (202) 653-4600
www.ims.gov



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 682-5400
Fax (202) 682-5611
www.arts.gov



1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 606-8400
Fax (202) 606-8240
www.neh.gov

June 29, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that **Book Group Programs at Family Focus** at Literature for All of Us has been selected to receive a 2005 *Coming Up Taller* Award. The awards are an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and are made possible in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The *Coming Up Taller* Awards recognize exemplary programs that engage young people in the arts and the humanities outside the regular school day. These awards celebrate the significant contributions that artists and arts organizations, historians and humanities scholars, and museums and libraries make in helping children learn and achieve.

We have provided contact information should you like to inform your constituents and congratulate them of their selection for this prestigious award. Grant and logistical information will be sent to all awardees very soon.

Public announcement of the recipients will not be made until later in the Fall. At that time, your constituents will be invited to Washington, DC to participate in a ceremony where they will be presented a formal plaque and \$10,000 award. Last year, the awards were presented by Mrs. Laura Bush, Honorary Chairman of the President's Committee.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of these programs that are so vital to young people by personally attending the ceremony. We will notify your office when the 2005 ceremony is scheduled.

If you have any questions about the *Coming Up Taller* Awards, please do not hesitate to contact Ann Guthrie Hingston, Director of Government Affairs at the National Endowment for the Arts, at 202-682-5434, who will respond on behalf of us all.

Sincerely,

Henry Moran
Executive Director
President's Committee on the
Arts and the Humanities

Robert S. Martin
Director
Institute of Museum and
Library Services

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

Bruce Cole
Chairman
National Endowment for the
Humanities



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

June 13, 2005

Office of the Chairman

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am delighted to inform you that your constituent, Albertina Walker of Chicago, has been chosen as a 2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. Your constituent has been chosen to receive this high award from the U.S. Government because of her extraordinary expertise and commitment to passing on her skills and cultural traditions to a new generation.

We invite you to be a member of the Honorary Host Committee comprising Members of Congress who will be listed on the formal invitation for the NEA National Heritage events. Enclosed is a copy of last year's invitation. Including your name on the Host Committee requires no other commitment.

The 2005 NEA National Heritage Fellows will be honored at three events in Washington, DC:

- On Wednesday evening, September 21, at 6:30 pm at a banquet in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress, the NEA Heritage Fellows will talk about their craft and cultural traditions.
- On Thursday morning, September 22, in the Cannon Caucus Room, we will present Fellows with the NEA National Heritage Fellowship, including an award of \$20,000. Members of Congress are invited to present the award to their constituent.
- On Friday evening, September 23, at Lisner Auditorium, at the George Washington University, the accomplishments of the NEA Heritage Fellows will be showcased in a free public concert to be broadcast later on the radio. Every year the auditorium is packed.

I hope that you will be able to join me at one or all of these events. We will send you more information about the events as they approach.

Enclosed is a copy of the press release announcing these awards, embargoed to June 15.

Should you want to honor your constituent in your home State or meet with her in Washington, we would be happy to facilitate such events. Please contact me or our Office of Government Affairs at 202/682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dana Gioia".

Dana Gioia
Chairman



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

Office of the Chairman

May 2, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Obama:

We invite you to an extraordinary performance by acclaimed film actor Stephen Lang in the play *Beyond Glory* in the Mansfield Room of the U.S. Capitol on Monday, May 16. Senators Frist and Reid are hosting Mr. Lang's one-man show for members of the Senate and their spouses. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. with the performance from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

In *Beyond Glory*, Stephen Lang presents the personal accounts of eight Medal of Honor recipients from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, including Senator Daniel Inouye and Admiral James Stockdale. As part of the National Endowment for the Arts' *Operation Homecoming* program, Lang is performing *Beyond Glory* for military personnel serving abroad, including in the Persian Gulf.

In conjunction with the Department of Defense and with funding from The Boeing Company, the National Endowment for the Arts has provided *Operation Homecoming* writing workshops on 18 military installations. These workshops have been taught by some of America's most distinguished authors for returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and for their spouses.

The Arts Endowment created *Operation Homecoming* to help U.S. troops and their families write about their wartime experiences. Already more than one thousand letters, memoirs, poems, and journals have been submitted to the Endowment. These works will be collected into a national archive with the best submissions published in a literary anthology.

We hope that you will join us on May 16 for a memorable evening honoring the recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Gioia" clearly distinguishable.

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclsoure



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

Office of the Chairman

April 26, 2005

Dear Senator:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Endowment for the Arts is launching a national tour of *NEA Jazz Masters* who will perform in all 50 States. The tour will begin in June 2005 and extend until December 2006. We will keep you informed of the exact dates of performances in your state.

In each state, the Endowment is awarding grants to present one or more *NEA Jazz Masters* performances (see enclosed list) with a special priority on underserved areas. *NEA Jazz Masters on Tour* will provide performances by a select number of living legends who have received our nation's highest award for exceptional contributions to the advancement of jazz. The 2005 *NEA Jazz Masters* are: guitarist Kenny Burrell (rhythm instrumentalist), Paquito D'Rivera (solo instrumentalist), Slide Hampton (arranger-composer), Shirley Horn (vocalist), the late Artie Shaw (big band leader), Jimmy Smith (keyboardist), and George Wein (jazz advocate).

This tour is part of the expansion of the *NEA Jazz Masters* program begun by the Endowment last year. In addition to providing the 50 State tour, the Endowment is sponsoring national television and radio programming on jazz, and developing jazz educational materials that will be available free of charge to high school teachers beginning in September 2005. The first of several lessons can now be found on www.neajazzintheschools.org. Expansion of the *NEA Jazz Masters* initiative is made possible with funding from the Verizon Corporation and the Verizon Foundation.

We welcome your participation in this exceptional program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Gioia" clearly legible.

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

Office of the Chairman

April 13, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

We are pleased to inform you that your state will soon receive one or more grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in the second round of FY 2005 grants. We invite you to announce these grants prior to the Endowment's announcement to the national press, embargoed for April 21, 2005.

Grants awarded in this round will support arts education projects for children and youth, projects that present and/or preserve artistically excellent work, and grants that distribute 40 percent of the agency's program funds to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six regional arts organizations. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts require at least a one-to-one match and generate, on average, seven dollars for each dollar awarded.

We welcome applications to assist for arts projects in your state. FY 2006 application guidelines and forms are available online at www.arts.gov. Should you have questions regarding this or any other matter pertaining to the National Endowment for the Arts, please call me or our Congressional Liaison staff at 202-682-5434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Gioia" clearly distinguishable.

Dana Gioia
Chairman

Enclosure(s)