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**LOTUS TO RECEIVE $35,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

*Bloomington, Indiana* - National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than $25 million in grants as part of the NEA’s first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of $35,000 to the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation for the 25th annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. The Art Works category is the NEA’s largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

“It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring.”

Adds Lotus Executive Director Sunni Fass, “The NEA has long been a strong supporter of the work we do here at Lotus, and this grant helps our global-arts mission to reach as many people as possible. Especially on the occasion of our 25th anniversary Festival, we’re so grateful for this partnership that brings our community together, celebrates our diversity, and brings us that much closer to our neighbors around the world.”

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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**About the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation**

Established in 1994, the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Bloomington, Indiana, with a mission to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world’s cultures, through music and the arts. Lotus offers the annual flagship [Lotus World Music & Arts Festival](http://lotusfest.org/festival-main), [Lotus Blossoms Educational Outreach](http://lotusfest.org/lotus-blossoms-main), a vibrant [Visual Arts](http://lotusfest.org/visual-arts/) program, and special programming and events with community partners throughout the year.

For more information about Lotus, please visit [www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org) or contact Marketing Director Sara Sheikh, sara@lotusfest.org, 812-336-6599. A continually updated calendar of public events can be found at <http://www.lotusfest.org/events/> .