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Lotus Education and Arts Foundation Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant
Grant to support the 2015 Lotus World Music and Arts Festival

Bloomington, Indiana — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced earlier this month that the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation is one of 919 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. This \$30,000 award in support of the 2015 Lotus World Music and Arts Festival marks the seventh time since 2008 that Lotus has been an NEA grant recipient.

Art Works grants support the creation of art, public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. In announcing the 2014 grant recipients, NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "I'm pleased to be able to share the news of our support through Art Works, including the award to Lotus. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate those attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

The City of Bloomington's Assistant Economic Development Director for the Arts, Miah Michaelsen, adds, "What the Lotus Festival brings Bloomington is an opportunity through visual arts, music, and dance to celebrate the power of the individual and the collaborative in helping shape communities for the better."

"Funding from the NEA recognizes that the Lotus mission and Festival have value on a national level, as well as here in our local community," says Lotus Executive Director Sunni Fass. "Around here, we all know that Bloomington has a phenomenal arts scene, and it's exciting to help spotlight that on a larger scale. Lotus is honored to be a part of bringing more national attention to what our community has to offer."

Development Director Kristin Varella says, "This NEA award, combined with the generosity of individuals and local businesses who support the Festival each year, helps ensure that people from all walks of life are able to participate in Lotus activities."

The NEA received 1,474 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$75 million in funding. Of those applications, 919 were recommended for grants totaling \$26.6 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov. Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at #NEAFall2014.

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