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For more information: Sunni Fass, Executive Director, sunni@lotusfest.org, 812-336-6599

Lotus Education & Arts Foundation Receives 2016 National Endowment for the Arts Award

Bloomington, Indiana – The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation a \$20,000 Art Works grant in support of the 23rd annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival scheduled for September 15-18, 2016. The Art Works award supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

The NEA's first funding round of fiscal year 2016 offered more than \$27.6 million in grants, including eight awards for Indiana-based arts organizations and cultural programming. Over the last 50 years, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion in grants to recipients in every state and U.S. jurisdiction, the only arts funder in the nation to do so.

"The arts are part of our everyday lives - no matter who you are or where you live," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu said. "They have the power to transform individuals, spark economic vibrancy in communities, and transcend the boundaries across diverse sectors of society. Supporting projects like Lotus offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

This grant announcement marks the fourth time that Lotus has received an NEA Art Works award. "Lotus has been building cross-cultural bridges through the arts for over two decades," said Sunni Fass, Lotus Executive Director. "The Festival is truly a Bloomington signature, not only because of its beauty and joyfulness, but also because it gives people a chance to connect to each other in ways that are both intensely local and powerfully global. We're pleased to again be recognized by the NEA for the strength and quality of our programs."

The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation is a Bloomington-based non-profit organization providing year-round multicultural programming in support of its mission to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts. Now entering its 23rd year, the Foundation's flagship program is the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, one of the oldest world music festivals in the U.S. and the only festival of its kind in the state of Indiana. Attracting more than 12,000 people annually, the Festival creates - on a grand scale - the rare opportunity for audiences to experience places far removed from their everyday routines and to broaden their worldview through the arts.

Please visit www.lotusfest.org for more information about the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation and its programs. Additional details on NEA project awards can be found at www.arts.gov.

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Lotus Education & Arts Foundation
P.O. Box 1667 / Bloomington IN 47402
812-336-6599 • media@lotusfest.org

Lotus is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. In addition to the Festival, Lotus offers year-round programs including concerts, arts events, community workshops, and Lotus Blossoms educational outreach. Every Lotus event serves our community and supports our mission: To create opportunities

to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts.