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**Lotus Education & Arts Foundation to receive \$20,000 grant  
from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Bloomington, Indiana* — National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$30 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$20,000 to the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival in September 2017. The Art Works category focuses 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 the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"The arts are for all of us, and by supporting organizations such as Lotus, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer."

This grant announcement marks the fifth time that Lotus has received an NEA Art Works award. "There's a powerful alignment between Lotus programs and the NEA's focus on public engagement and using the arts to build stronger communities," said Sunni Fass, Lotus Executive Director. "We feel the Festival is all about the power of the arts to make the world a better place – by building bridges through curiosity and discovery and conversation, and most of all by inspiring human connections that transcend geography, religion, language, and skin color. These connections now seem more vital than ever, especially for our young people."

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. The Foundation's flagship program, now entering its 24<sup>th</sup> year, 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, this signature Bloomington event 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](http://www.lotusfest.org) for more information about the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation and its programs.

For additional details on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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