

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **National Endowment for the Arts Announces Grants to Support the Arts and Innovation Across the Country Vermont Organizations to Receive \$926,300**

Washington, D.C. – On May 15, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced its second round of funding for fiscal year 2019 (FY2019). Ten Vermont organizations will receive grants through the Art Works program. The Vermont Arts Council will receive \$724,300 to support arts programs, services, and activities associated with carrying out the agency's National Endowment for the Arts-approved strategic plan.

“Public support for the arts is a vital part of a thriving democracy—and one that seems more important with each passing day,” said Karen Mittelman, Vermont Arts Council executive director. “We congratulate the nine Vermont arts organizations that were recognized by the NEA for their outstanding work. We are also proud that NEA’s support of the Arts Council is matched dollar for dollar by the Vermont state legislature, enabling us to bring the power and inspiration of art and creativity to every Vermont community.”

The grants are part of \$80 million for 1,114 new awards located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 4 U.S. jurisdictions. This is the Art Endowment’s second major grant announcement of FY2019, and these awards continue the Arts Endowment’s commitment as the only arts funder reaching the entire country. Awards from this round of funding come from four categories: Art Works II, Our Town, state and regional partnerships and Research: Art Works, plus a renewal in NEA Research Labs.

Art Works is the Arts Endowment’s largest category with projects supported in 13 artistic disciplines and fields in this Art Works II group, ranging from arts education to visual arts. Grant amounts range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 with a median amount of \$20,000. Vermont’s recipients are:

#### **New Music On The Point, Brandon**

\$10,000 to support the John Luther Adams Festival

#### **Big Heavy World, Burlington**

\$10,000 to support strategic planning and public programming focused on the music community in Vermont

#### **Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington**

\$35,000 to support a series of multidisciplinary performing arts presentations

#### **Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (on behalf of Burlington Discover Jazz Festival), Burlington**

\$35,000 to support the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

**Opera Company of Middlebury, Middlebury**

\$10,000 to support performances and a statewide tour of Puccini's Tosca

**Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury**

\$42,000 to support a traditional arts apprenticeship program and related fieldwork

**Community Engagement Lab, Montpelier**

\$40,000 to support the professional development component of the Vermont Creative Schools Initiative

**Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, Weston**

\$10,000 to support the expansion of new work development programs, including the Vermont 100 Residency, the New Music Theater Award, the Fall Artists Playground, and the Spring New Works Festival

**Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, Winooski**

\$10,000 to support the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival

**About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. For more information, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

**About the Vermont Arts Council**

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. Engagement with the arts transforms individuals, connects us more deeply to each other, energizes the economy, and sustains the vibrant cultural landscape that makes Vermont a great place to live. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org).

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