



**For Immediate Release**

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**THE DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION FOR ISLAMIC ART'S BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL FUNDING COMPETITION TO INCREASE PUBLIC  
UNDERSTANDING OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES**

**A Total of \$1.5 Million Will Be Awarded for Cultural Projects  
and Programs that Begin in March 2015**

**NEW YORK, NY, April 18, 2014** — The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) today announced that its second annual funding competition, which will award a total of \$1.5 million to nonprofit organizations, is now open for application. [The Building Bridges 2014-2015 Grants Program](#) seeks proposals for cultural programs or projects intended to increase public knowledge and understanding of current-day Muslim societies through arts or media-based experiences.

In February, DDFIA awarded eight U.S. nonprofit organizations a total of \$1,604,530 in grants as a result of the Building Bridges Program's first-ever funding competition. Prior to last year's competition, the Building Bridges Program had solely awarded grants through a curatorial approach or through intermediary organizations.

"We are very pleased with the results of the first Building Bridges Program competition and are eager to expand support to a new set of organizations across the US that will deepen understanding between people of different cultures," said Zeyba Rahman, senior program officer for the Building Bridges Program. "We hope that a diverse set of organizations, including those that are community based, will avail of this opportunity to develop imaginative arts-focused projects that educate and engage audiences."

Since 2007, the Building Bridges Program has supported efforts to increase the public's familiarity with and understanding of contemporary Muslim cultures through arts and media programming. The Building Bridges Program supports grantees using the arts as a medium for increasing awareness and thereby understanding of the richness and diversity of Muslim cultures and the societies from which they emanate.

**About the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art**

The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) is an operating foundation funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The mission of DDFIA is to improve the quality of people's lives through the study, understanding and appreciation of Islamic arts and cultures. Based in New York, the Building Bridges Program is a grant-making program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and supports national efforts that use the arts to increase the public's understanding of contemporary Muslim societies. [www.ddcf.org/programs/building-bridges](http://www.ddcf.org/programs/building-bridges).

**About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. For more information, please visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org).