



## THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S FUND FOR NATIONAL PROJECTS AWARDS 12 ARTS ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$1.37M TO PILOT NEW IDEAS

### Twelve Performing Arts Organizations Receive Support for Experimental Programs With Potential to Scale Up and Support the National Sectors of Dance, Jazz and Theater

**NEW YORK, N.Y., September 8, 2016** — The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced the 12 performing arts organizations and projects winning funding through the foundation's Fund for National Projects. These grants provide organizations with the resources to research and plan for, or pilot and implement, projects showing particular potential for replication and influence on the practices of other organizations across the country. Through the Fund for National Projects, the foundation aims to strengthen the national infrastructure of performing arts by supporting projects that promise to foster continued dynamism and vitality in their respective fields of contemporary dance, jazz and theater.

DDCF's Fund for National Projects offers organizations two kinds of support: Phase I funding to embark upon projects that have not previously received DDCF grants, and Phase II funding for organizations to continue and expand previously DDCF-funded projects. Each grant contains funds for specific project-related expenses as well as funds for general operating costs.

Maurine Knighton, program director for the arts at DDCF, said, "The long-term strength of the performing arts sector relies on a culture that embraces opportunities to adapt and evolve. The foundation is constantly seeking to support promising new ideas that help dance, jazz and theater artists—and organizations within those communities—thrive. This year's projects have the potential for knowledge-building and advancing practice at a scale sufficient to influence the national landscape."

**Phase I** funding from DDCF's 2016 Fund for National Projects will go to seven new projects.

- [Art2Action](#) in Tampa, Fla., will receive \$95,625 to support the presentation of performances created by, for, about and with veterans, in partnership with [Americans for the Arts](#) and the University of South Florida, as part of the **National Summit on Arts & Health in the Military**, February 2-5, 2017.
- [East West Players](#) in Los Angeles, Calif., will receive \$180,000 to create **Think Tanks** that will gather theater professionals nationwide to discuss issues of access, equity and the potential for systemic change in theater and the performing arts in general.
- Jazz Forward Coalition, through [Fractured Atlas](#) in New York, N.Y., will receive \$113,400 to create **JazzHubs**, a network of resources in jazz that fosters professional development, interactive community engagement and broader knowledge-sharing, ultimately to support the field's long-term sustainability.
- [National Arts Strategies](#) in Alexandria, Va., will receive \$84,938, working in partnership with the [International Association of Blacks in Dance](#) in Washington, D.C., to support the Black dance



Art2Action Artistic Director Andrea Assaf & Iraq War Veteran Marc "SoManyStylz" Reid perform together during Art2Action's "Veterans Community Open Mic" at Sacred Grounds Coffee House, Tampa, Fla. Photo: James Geiger, 2014.

community's continued strength and development by investing in education tools, cross-generational learning opportunities and leadership training.

- [Network of Ensemble Theaters](#) in Portland, Ore., will receive \$140,625 to develop **CoNECTR**, an online platform that supports a national peer-to-peer artist presenting circuit for collaborative tours and residencies that is more accessible and removes barriers to diverse participation.
- [Penumbra Theatre](#) in St. Paul, Minn., will receive \$214,594 as the fiscal sponsor for [artEquity](#), a national initiative designed to provide in-person, skills-based and analysis-building training to theater practitioners to encourage greater diversity and effective social activism through their art.
- [Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts](#) in Blacksburg, Va., will receive \$222,824 to build **VTArtWorks**, an online communications hub that spreads knowledge about how the arts can be used to develop communities and foster broader civic engagement among citizens.

**Phase II** funding from DDCF's 2016 Fund for National Projects will go to five previously funded projects.

- [American Theatre Wing](#) in New York, N.Y., will receive \$112,500 to expand **national media programming** that connects theater communities with audiences online and on mobile devices.
- [Childsplay](#) in Tempe, Ariz., will receive \$28,125 to bolster the capacity of its project **Write Now** to develop conversation, inspiration and collaboration among American playwrights creating work for youth audiences.
- [DataArts](#) in Philadelphia, Pa., will receive \$33,750 to continue building an **educational curriculum** that supports the ability of professionals at nonprofit dance, jazz, theater and presenting organizations to better understand and use data in ways that improve their work.
- [Partners for Sacred Places](#) in Philadelphia, Pa., will receive \$33,750 to advance on-the-ground arts programming of **Creating Spaces**, a successful space-sharing project matching artists and houses of worship, in Austin, Tx., and Baltimore, Md.
- [Theatre Communications Group](#) in New York, N.Y., will receive \$112,500 to support its **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative** to study, record and disseminate the history and ongoing progress of equity, diversity and inclusion in theater.



Partners for Sacred Places brings together Brian Sanders' JUNK with Shiloh Baptist Church to rehearse "Urban Scuba" (dancers Kelly Trevlyn and Theodore Fatscher), in Philadelphia, Pa.  
Photo credit: Ted Lieverman.

Since 2007, DDCF's Fund for National Projects has supported 78 projects with grants totaling over \$11.86 million. This round of grants marks the ninth year that DDCF has provided support to performing arts organizations with the goal of fostering creative yet untested projects that offer potentially vast benefits to the sector of performing arts nationwide.

### **About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) 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. The Arts Program of DDCF focuses its support on contemporary dance, jazz and theater artists, and the organizations that nurture, present and produce them. For more information, please visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org).

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