



FUNDING COMPETITION LAUNCHES TO BUILD INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

The Building Bridges 2017-2018 Grants Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Seeks Proposals for Arts and Cultural Programming That Increases Empathy and Reduces Bias in Locations Across the United States

New York, NY, July 13, 2017 – The [Building Bridges 2017-2018 Grants Program](#) of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) launched today and is now accepting proposals for arts and cultural projects that advance relationships, increase understanding, and reduce bias between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

Now in its fifth consecutive year, the annual funding competition offers grants ranging in the amounts of \$25,000 to \$300,000 to nonprofit organizations based in the United States with operating budgets of at least \$100,000. In addition, grantees will receive strategic communications support from a consultant appointed by the foundation. A total of \$1,750,000 will be awarded for projects and programs that begin between March and December of 2018.

“Work to forge greater intercultural understanding is an indisputable national need, today,” said Zeyba Rahman, senior program officer for the DDFIA Building Bridges Program. “Now and perennially, the arts are a highly effective, oft-overlooked force for experiential learning that builds empathy and reminds us of our common humanity. Our previous grantees have demonstrated how creative efforts that bind us together are highly effective at cultivating cross-community connections—ultimately leading to social change that results in greater well-being and a more just civil society. With the 2017-2018 funding competition, we are excited to discover new ideas for ways to empower communities under pressure, push back against stereotypes, celebrate our differences and strengthen relationships in—and therefore the fabric of—our country.”

To date, \$6.48 million has been awarded to 36 organizations through Building Bridges Program annual funding competitions. The Building Bridges Program is the grant-making arm of DDFIA, an extension of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The program provides grantees with support to plan and implement cultural programs or projects that forge deeper, mutual understanding and relationships between Muslim and non-Muslim communities across the country. Through a collective appraisal of self-evaluations conducted by the program’s past grantees, the foundation has observed that strong relationships are built most effectively when audiences are able to immerse themselves in the experience of the project and directly interact, collaborate or communicate with the artists and other participants.

About the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

The Building Bridges Program is the grant-making arm of the [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art](#), which is an extension of the [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#). The program supports national efforts to advance relationships, increase understanding, and reduce bias between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. The mission of DDFIA is to promote the study, understanding and appreciation of Muslim arts and cultures. For more information, please visit www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/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.

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