



## THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM LAUNCHES 6<sup>TH</sup> FUNDING COMPETITION

### **The Building Bridges 2018-19 Grants Competition seeks project proposals that strengthen bonds among Muslims and their non-Muslim neighbors.**

**New York, N.Y., July 17, 2018** – Today, the Building Bridges Program launched its sixth annual funding competition for arts and culture projects to advance greater understanding and relationships among Muslims and non-Muslims. Since its launch in 2013, the program has supported the creation and/or expansion of 51 unique projects with about \$8.8 million for cross-community social transformation throughout the country.

“We are honored to support inspired creative approaches to strengthening our communities and celebrating their diversity,” said Zeyba Rahman, senior program officer for the Building Bridges Program. “There is a fierce need to cultivate a cultural environment of trust and belonging. For the last five years, our grantees have led projects with commitment and deep care to ignite our collective imagination and propel us toward harmony. Surely there is no better way to encourage empathy and unity than the bold use of arts and media programming. We are excited to launch this competition for another year to support more organizations who are passionate about lifting up our country’s myriad populations, to share their cultures and amplify their stories for the benefit of all.”

The Building Bridges Program provides grantees with support to plan and implement cultural projects to improve relationships within communities of Muslim and non-Muslim residents across the country. Organizations funded to date represent diversity in geography, population, disciplines and mission. Through systematic self-evaluations conducted by prior grantees, the program has observed that strong relationships are built most effectively when audiences are able to immerse themselves in experiential learning and directly interact, collaborate or communicate with the creative community who design and lead project activities. For more information about the Request for Proposals, please visit [www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges](http://www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges).

#### **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](http://www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges), which is an extension of the [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](http://www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges). The program supports national efforts to advance relationships and increase understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim communities for mutual well-being. 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](http://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](http://www.ddcf.org).

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