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JAMAICA CENTER FOR ARTS & LEARNING RECEIVES GRANT FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Some 1,100+ grants totaling \$27.3M awarded as part of FY20 funding

Queens, New York — It was announced on Wednesday, January 15 that Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL) is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Art Works and Challenge America grant. The funds will specifically support presenting dance artists who are part of the annual Making Moves Dance Festival, held in September.

In this round of fiscal year 2020, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million to organizations like the Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, in all 50 states. Recipient organizations share a common objective: providing Americans with an opportunity for arts participation.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support grants throughout the entire country that connect people through shared experiences and artistic expression,” said Arts Endowment Chairman Mary Anne Carter. “These projects provide access to the arts for people of all abilities and backgrounds in both urban centers and rural communities.”

The NEA Art Works grants support artistically excellent projects that celebrate creativity and cultural heritage, invite mutual respect for differing beliefs and values, and enrich humanity. Cost share/matching grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

“We are encouraged, and are thankful to be included among the organizations recognized by the NEA,” said JCAL Executive Director, Cathy Hung. “With the \$15,000 Art Work grant we have received, the organization will continue to create and provide the community with exceptional dance programs, while supporting locally-based emerging talent without whom, the annual Making Moves Dance Festival could not happen.”



Since taking on the leadership role at JCAL almost five years ago, Ms. Hung has been responsible for increasing the organization's funding streams in support of a host of exciting, multidisciplinary, multicultural music, theater, dance, and visual arts programs for residents of all ages in the community (children, teens and adults), visitors and tourists.

In addition to the NEA grant, JCAL has received financial support from several other important organizations including: a **New York Community Trust** grant that will be applied to JCAL's **Building Equity** initiative; a **Booth Ferris Foundation** grant to help JCAL's focus on building marketing capacity; **The Howard Gilman Foundation** grant will support JCAL's high quality performing arts programs; a grant from the **Jerome Foundation** will support emerging visual artists, through the organization's **ARTWorks, Inc.** program; and a grant from **The Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust** will support JCAL's social practice for mental health patients.

The 48-year old Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning located in Southeast Queens, services one of the most diverse communities in New York. Its mission centers on offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, as well as educational programs that encourage participation in, and an appreciation for the arts. The funding it has received from the NEA and others will help the organization accomplish its mission. For more on the JCAL's 2020 program schedule, visit www.jcal.org.

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About Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary, urban arts organization based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Since its founding, JCAL has supported the creation and presentation of local, emerging and established artists. JCAL devotes its mission to offering quality visual, performing and literary arts, arts education and diverse artistic programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL, operates two city-owned landmark buildings owned by the City of New York, the Jamaica Arts Center (161-04 Jamaica Avenue) and Jamaica Performing Arts Center (153-10 Jamaica Avenue), is partially supported by public funds.

JCAL receives ongoing general operating and program support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, the Queens Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Council Member I. Daneek Miller, Councilmember Barry Grodenchik, Councilman Rory Lancman, Councilman Donovan Richards, and Councilwoman Adrienne Adams. JCAL also receives funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); foundations and corporates support from the New York Community Trust, Booth Ferris Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Colgate Palmolive Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, ConEdison, Resort World Casino New York City, and Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, and individual contributors.