



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2022

CONTACT: Titi Ngwenya
617.553.9206
tngwenya@eliotsschool.org

Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts to Receive \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts

(Jamaica Plain/Boston, Mass.)

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts has been approved for a \$20,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The grant will support the 2022 Artist in Residence project that empowers youth and community through the arts.

Associate Director Alison Croney Moses said, “We are honored to be chosen for a third year of funding by the NEA. This national recognition rewards the value the Eliot School is able to build for youth and artists as we work together to enhance our communities.”

For the Eliot School’s 2022 funded project, seasoned Boston artists GoFive and TakeOne will work with teens and community to create murals at English High School on the theme of “belonging,” anticipating a time when we are able to gather together in person after the pandemic’s fraught periods of social isolation.

The Eliot School’s [Teen Bridge](#) program engages a dedicated group of teens in a year-round, multi-year program combining art education and experience, life skills, mentorship, job training, and employment, outside of school time. Its [Artist in Residence](#) program engages a Boston-based artist each year to create work around a resonant theme. Teen Bridge participants support the artists as Fellows in an intensive process of collaborative design, art making, and community engagement.

The Eliot School is also included in NEA funding for training art teachers in collaboration with Open Door Arts, an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation, and Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University. Through this collaboration a \$30,000 Grants for Arts Projects award will support SPEAC (Supporting the Processing of Experience through the Arts during Crises), a professional development program for arts educators. This project addresses an unmet need for arts educators to explore how artistic process intersects with students’ social, emotional, and cultural needs. (Read the separate press release [here](#).)

The Eliot School is joined in this year’s NEA awards by Jamaica Plain-based organizations A Far Cry, BalletRox, and 50 additional arts organizations across Massachusetts.

About the NEA Grant Awards

This grant is part of the NEA’s first round of recommended awards for 2022, with 1,498 awards totaling nearly \$33.2 million. The funding spans 15 artistic disciplines and reaches communities across the nation. It includes Challenge America grants, NEA Literature Fellowships in creative writing and translation, and support for arts research projects.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from the Eliot School that help support the community’s creative economy,” said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. “Eliot School in Boston is among the arts organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts.”

The NEA posts online:

- a [state-by-state listing](#) of the grants announced in this release;
- a listing of awards by discipline / grant category;
- a list of [the panelists](#) who reviewed the funding applications.

The NEA is committed to equity, access, and fostering mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all individuals and groups. Applications for funding demonstrated a commitment by the arts and culture sector to provide more equitable and accessible pathways for arts engagement.

Grants for Arts Projects awards reach communities in all parts of the country, large and small, and with diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. 1,248 organizations are recommended to receive cost share/matching grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for a total of \$28,840,000. The awards represent 15 artistic fields: Artist Communities, Arts Education, Dance, Design, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Media Arts, Museums, Music, Musical Theater, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater, and Visual Arts. Applications were received in February 2021 from 1,879 eligible organizations requesting more than \$92 million in support.

About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

Building on an extraordinary 340-year history, the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts inspires lifelong learning in craft and creativity for all. It cultivates welcoming environments where people convene across a continuum of age, economic means and backgrounds to build skills, craftsmanship and community. Its offerings satisfy the human desires to create, engage in self-expression and learn by doing; and its vision builds upon the school's historic role in shaping arts education.

Today, the Eliot School teaches art and woodworking in Boston's public schools and community centers. Its Teen Bridge and Artist in Residence programs support art making, youth development, and community. And it offers classes to people of all ages in fine and applied arts in its schoolhouse in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood, including woodworking, upholstery, sewing, fiber arts, visual arts, and more.