Art Access Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

Salt Lake City, UTAH - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced this week that Art Access is one of only 163 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Challenge America grant. Art Access, of Salt Lake City, Utah, is recommended for a $10,000 grant to support visual and literary arts programs for veterans.

Art Access will present visual and literary arts workshops with guest artists, a visual arts exhibition, a literary arts salon, and a disability and literature book group for veterans with and without disabilities and their families. For the literary arts activities, Art Access will partner with the University of Utah’s Veteran Support Center, and for the visual arts workshops and events, the organization will continue its partnership with the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "I’m pleased to be able to share the news of our support through Challenge America including the award to Art Access. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate those attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

“We’re excited to reach out to more veterans and explore the powerful combination of visual and literary storytelling,” said Sheryl Gillilan, executive director. “We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who have worked to keep our country safe, and we want to encourage them to share their life stories through art.”

The Challenge America category supports projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. The NEA received 347 eligible Challenge America applications and will award 163 grants for a total of $1.63 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Challenge America support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov. Follow the conversation about this and other NEA – funded projects on Twitter at #NEAFall2014.

Art Access provides equal opportunities to inclusive arts programming to Utahns with disabilities and those with limited access to the arts.