



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Oregon Arts Commission to Receive and Distribute Federal Stimulus Funds for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced \$19.8 million in one-time grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations to support the arts sector of the economy. The Oregon Arts Commission will receive \$307,600, all of which it will regrant to Oregon arts organizations to preserve jobs in the arts that are threatened or have been recently eliminated due to the economic downturn.

"Jobs in the arts are a vital part of Oregon's creative economy," said Governor Ted Kulongoski. "Nonprofit arts organizations employ artists, directors, managers, technicians, designers and workers in a variety of trades. They've helped brand Oregon as a state where creativity and innovation are important to all sectors of the economy."

"We're pleased the arts are recognized in the Recovery Act," commented Christine D'Arcy, Arts Commission executive director. "These one-time grants will help preserve up to 25 jobs, helping arts nonprofits weather the current economic storm. Those jobs will support arts organizations as they continue to offer high quality programs to Oregonians and bring visitors to the state. The economic stimulus plan acknowledges the role that the arts play in state and national recovery, employing artists and arts administrators in this difficult time."

"This is a good example of 'The Oregon Way' for recovery," D'Arcy added, citing the state's coordinated approach for stimulus activity focused on pioneering, green and creative investments.

The Arts Commission will invest Recovery funds in projects that assist arts organizations in retaining critical staff. Oregon Arts Stimulus Grant guidelines will be posted online at <http://oregon.cgweb.org> by April 17, 2009. Requests for funding will be accepted through an online application process until May 15, 2009.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts -- both new and established -- bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit www.arts.gov. Since the NEA was established, it has worked in partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six multi-state regional arts organizations to meet the Arts Endowment's goal of bringing the arts to all Americans. This dynamic relationship has resulted in an exemplary record of growth for the arts, stimulating an extraordinary economic impact in communities throughout the country. As required by the NEA's legislation, forty percent of all grantmaking funds are designated for these partner agencies.

About the Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Economic Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

Related links

- National Endowment for the Arts, www.arts.gov
- Oregon Arts Commission, www.oregonartscommission.org
- "The Oregon Way" <http://recovery.oregon.gov>