



Press contact: Barbara Wolkoff 646.524.2218  
For immediate release

## **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE \$25,000 NEA ART WORKS GRANT.**

***Grant to support Professional Training, Community, and Access Program,  
which provides professional, paid learning opportunities to directors and choreographers  
across the country at all levels of their careers.***

New York, NY — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced today that Stage Directors and Choreographers Workshop Foundation (SDCF) is one of 886 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. SDCF is recommended for a \$25,000 grant to support its year-round programs that benefit the nation's emerging stage directors and choreographers through opportunities for training and community, as well as programs giving artists and the general public around the country access to professional directors and choreographers.

NEA Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The NEA is pleased to announce that SDCF is recommended for an NEA Art Works grant. These NEA-supported projects will not only have a positive impact on local economies, but will also provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the arts, help our communities to become more vibrant, and support our nation's artists as they contribute to our cultural landscape."

Sheldon Epps, Chair of the SDC Foundation Committee and Executive Board Member, stated, "SDCF is uniquely positioned to provide access and support to directors and choreographers. That the NEA recognizes this is very meaningful and strengthens our capacity to make a difference in the lives of these central artists."

Laura Penn, SDCF Executive Director, added, "This support will make it possible for SDCF to increase stipends to emerging artists, facilitate national participation and continue to lower financial barriers to allow for increased access to all programs."

Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,515 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$76 million in funding. Of those applications, 886 are recommended for grants for a total of \$25.8 million.

For a [complete listing of projects](#) recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

Founded in 1965 by Members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers, the SDCF is the nation's premier organization that exists to foster, train, support and promote the craft of theatre directors and choreographers. SDCF aims to provide opportunities to practice the crafts of direction and choreography; promote emerging talent; grant access to career paths for emerging artists and young professionals; gather and disseminate craft and career information; provide forums for exchange of knowledge; and increase the awareness of the value of Directors' and Choreographers' work.

*For more information, visit SDCF online at [SDCFoundation.org](http://SDCFoundation.org).*

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