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Cathedral Arts Project to receive Creativity Connects grant from National Endowment for the Arts

Support for Creativity Connects will partner arts and non-arts sectors

December 13, 2016 – The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has announced the first round of grants as part of Chairman Jane Chu’s signature leadership initiative, [Creativity Connects](#). The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP), in partnership with VSA Florida, will be awarded an Art Works: Creativity Connects grant of \$22,500 to provide multidisciplinary artist residencies for incarcerated boys and at-risk girls throughout Florida.

This is one of 37 grants totaling \$2,500,000 to support partnerships between arts organizations and organizations from non-arts sectors, such as healthcare, nutrition, juvenile justice, science and technology, among many others.

“The NEA is proud to support these Creativity Connects projects that connect the arts and non-arts sectors in creative ways to produce something truly innovative,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu.

CAP and VSA Florida will collaborate with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FL DJJ) and PACE Center for Girls to provide arts learning programs that will involve instruction, creation and exhibition of student work and will provide a vital creative outlet for young people who may struggle to find appropriate forms of self-expression.

This program will develop holistic evaluation procedures that will assess the impact of arts learning on these students. The partnership between CAP and VSA, both of whom are leading providers of arts education and enrichment, and FL DJJ and PACE, will create links between the arts and juvenile crime prevention and justice sectors that will lead to exploration of new models for arts education for at-risk youth.

“CAP and VSA share the knowledge that accessible arts education creates a better quality of life for all,” said CAP Chief Program Officer Allison Galloway-Gonzalez. “Our partnership will ensure incarcerated and high-risk youth have the same experience in the arts as their peers in Jacksonville and throughout Florida. We feel incredibly encouraged that the NEA believes in this type of collaborative program, too.”

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*Now in its third decade of service, the mission of the **Cathedral Arts Project** is to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people. Our*

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vision is for every child to benefit from a well-rounded education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre and the visual arts. By providing direct instruction to students and teachers, facilitating partnerships and advocating for expanded access to arts education, the Cathedral Arts Project empowers children and youth to succeed in all areas of their lives. Learn more at capkids.org.

*The mission of **VSA Florida** is to provide, support and champion arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. Their vision is to create a world in which the arts are universally accessible. They do this by conducting art education programs in schools, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and community centers; promoting the accomplishments of artists with disabilities through their artist registry, exhibitions and performances; and increasing access to the arts through professional development workshops. To learn more, visit vsaf.org.*