

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 23, 2013

CONTACT: Robin Glazer, 646-465-5313, rglazer@thecreativecenter.org

The Creative Center at University Settlement receives National Endowment for the Arts grant to support training for artists to work with the elderly

*Grant one of 817 NEA Art Works grants
totaling \$26.3 million in funding nationwide*

New York, NY — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced today that The Creative Center at University Settlement is one of 817 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. The Creative Center is recommended for a \$30,000 grant to bring best practices in creative aging to artists and administrators working with older adults. A week-long training institute, taught by professionals in the fields of arts and aging, will prepare artists and healthcare professionals to initiate meaningful and creative art activities in various settings.

Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the United States. Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement, or innovation, these projects all contribute to vibrant communities and memorable opportunities for the public to engage with the arts."

Robin Glazer, Director of The Creative Center at University Settlement, said, "Our goal is to create a lively discourse about engaging older adults in creative expression with well-informed and passionate advocates for the field from many points of entry – medical, artistic, psycho-social and administrative. The flow of information in our previous training, both theoretical and hands-on, was amazing, and the professional connections made between trainees and presenters will definitely further the field."

"This week of training at the Creative Center at University Settlement ranks among one of the most effective and inspiring professional development series I have attended," said trainee Joan Giroux, Associate Professor of Art & Design at Columbia College Chicago, who attended the March 2013 Training Institute in Creative Aging, also funded by the NEA. "The breadth and diversity of the sessions and the depth of investigation within each provided me a significant base of knowledge of the field of arts and creative aging, and arts and health."

In August 2012, the NEA received 1,547 eligible applications for Art Works grants requesting more than \$80 million in funding. 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 the strengthening of communities through the arts. The 817 recommended NEA grants total \$26.3 million and span 13 artistic disciplines and fields. Applications were reviewed by panels of outside experts convened by NEA staff and each project was judged on its artistic excellence and artistic merit.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

The Creative Center was founded on the belief that "medicine cures the body, but art heals the spirit." All programs use trained professional artists to support patients, their families, and healthcare staff as they face the challenges of diagnosis, treatment and survivorship of chronic and life-threatening illnesses, as well as older adults meeting the challenges of aging, while discovering their own creative resources. Find out more at www.thecreativecenter.org.