APAP Awards $1,416,000 in Grants for Building Bridges: Arts, Culture and Identity Program

Four individual organizations and one consortium receive funding to carry out projects that expand awareness of Muslim arts and culture.

Washington, DC (October 13, 2016) – The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) announces awardees for the Building Bridges: Arts, Culture and Identity grant program. Four individual organizations and one consortium will receive between $125,000-$335,000 each in funding to build knowledge and appreciation for arts and culture with roots in Muslim-majority societies.

This grant program is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) and serves as a unique medium for both foundations to partner with APAP to support mission-critical projects that demonstrate the power of the arts to strengthen communities and increase intercultural understanding across America.

“The arts help us interpret our complex world and offer windows into one another’s experiences. We look forward to supporting these important projects and their promise to do just that,” said Maurine Knighton, program director for the Arts at DDCF. Zeyba Rahman, senior program officer for the Building Bridges Program at DDFIA, added, “These projects have the potential to foster deep connections between Muslims and non-Muslims in campuses and communities, and serve as a reminder to us that unity and understanding remain possible now as always.”

The projects will span from 2016-2019 and will work to deepen the relationships between diverse Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

“We are pleased with the innovative approaches and the range of communities that will benefit from this new round of awards. It shows that there is a growing commitment towards using the arts as a strategy to lead positive change around the awareness and perceptions of Muslim identity in this country,” said Scott Stoner, vice president of programs and resources at APAP. “The projects are truly inspiring and will create opportunities for both campus and community audiences to participate in a more meaningful way with artists and their work.”

Learn more about the awardees below.
Building Bridges: Arts, Culture and Identity Individual Grant Awardees:

Fine & Performing Arts Center at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL
*Mosaics* will explore the breadth of American culture through the lens of Muslim artists living and practicing in the United States, with a focus on personal narrative. This project envisions a mosaic of stories to celebrate the diversity of Muslims in America.

Hancher Auditorium at The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
*Embracing Complexity: Contemporary Islamic Expressions* will take a multidisciplinary approach to building understanding of contemporary Islamic cultures. Performing and visual artists will be in residence over the course of two years and work with partners both on and off campus through performances, classes, exhibits and discussions. The project will also explore the experiences of Muslims in Eastern Iowa through sharing of local stories.

Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
*SALAAM: Exploring Muslim Cultures* (Salaam means "Peace") will engage communities in southwest Virginia with a diversity of Muslim cultures through an exploration of stories, images, sounds and perspectives. The Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech joins a network of partners to integrate arts, dialogue, service-learning, academic inquiry and the production of new work.

Williams Center for the Arts at Lafayette College, Easton, PA
Recognizing the vibrant diversity of Muslim arts, cultures, and identities throughout the world and at home in the United States, Lafayette College and Williams Center for the Arts' Performance Series will explore a variety of contemporary Muslim artistic expressions by hosting three semester-long festivals with extended interdisciplinary activities through *Tapestries: Voices Within Contemporary Muslim Cultures*.

Building Bridges: Arts, Culture and Identity Consortium Grant Awardee:

The Cedar Cultural Center with Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN
*Midnimo*, Somali for “unity,” is a program launched in 2014 by The Cedar and Augsburg College that features Somali artists from Minnesota and around the world in residencies that increase understanding of Muslim cultures through Somali music. With five partners in three cities, this project is expanding *Midnimo* throughout Minnesota.

Department of Music Performance Series at Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
Through a project led by The Cedar called *Midnimo*, Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Music Performance Series is among a group of partners in three cities throughout Minnesota that are hosting residencies featuring Somali artists. In Mankato, these residencies build bridges between the campus, the city’s growing Somali community, and the larger population.
Paramount Center for the Arts with St. Cloud State University, Saint Cloud, MN
As part of a consortium led by The Cedar, Paramount Center for the Arts and St. Cloud State University will host residencies featuring Somali artists from Minnesota and around the world through Midnimo. This program will increase understanding of Muslim culture through Somali music. This is a timely and fitting project for our changing community.

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About APAP
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters is the national service, advocacy and membership organization for presenters of the performing arts. APAP is dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts industry and the professionals who work within it. APAP|NYC conference information APAPNYC.org, APAP membership information APAP365.org, Twitter @APAP365, Facebook facebook.com/APAPNYC.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The Arts Program of DDCF focuses its support on contemporary dance, jazz and theatre artists, and the organizations that nurture, present and produce them. For more information, please visit www.ddcf.org.

About the Building Bridges Program
The Building Bridges Program is the grant-making arm of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA), which is an extension of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). Based in New York, the Building Bridges Program supports national efforts to advance relationships, increase understanding, and reduce bias between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. For more information, please visit www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges.