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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Awards $250,000 for APAP’s Cultural Exchange Fund

Support underwrites international travel subsidy program for performing arts professionals

Washington, DC (July 29, 2015) – The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) is pleased to announce the award of a $250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of its Cultural Exchange Fund (CEF). The grant will be used over two years as part of a travel subsidy program for performing arts presenters, artist agents, managers and artists to travel abroad, establish new international partnerships and foster cultural exchange.

APAP has long recognized the importance of global exchange to fully engage audiences and communities in the breadth and diversity of international performing arts experiences. “Now in its seventh year, the CEF has provided APAP members with support that allows them to go out into the world and bring new artists and ideas back to their uniquely diverse home communities,” says Mario Garcia Durham, APAP president and CEO. “This program does more than bring different communities and artists together. It serves the arts industry on a global business level as we expand and deepen our knowledge of traditions and cultures abroad, building and developing collaborations with foreign artists and arts organizations, and experiencing work from around the world in its cultural context.”

Since 2008, APAP has sent performing arts professionals to multiple countries and continents through the CEF. Through the CEF Digital Diaries the public can learn from the exemplary CEF projects and APAP can continue to foster international projects and develop dialogues that are essential in today’s global arts economy. This is one of several programs APAP offers its members to enhance their marketability internationally, and to enrich the audience experience by supporting exchange of ideas and methodologies among diverse performing arts professionals and their organizations.
“The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s support over the past six years has been instrumental in elevating this program to another level. We’ve been able to offer more grants and share more peer-to-peer experiences with our communities as a result,” says Scott Stoner, APAP vice president of programs and resources.

APAP is now accepting applications for travel between August and December 2015 from its member presenting organizations, agents, managers, producers and artists, including artists represented by member organizations, for the purpose of traveling to see the work of artists and companies or to develop and advance projects with international artists and their collaborators. For those traveling in August and/or September 2015, proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis to allow for ample time to finalize travel itineraries. Applications should be received no later than three weeks prior to the applicant’s first travel date. There will be four rounds of funding between August 2015 and May 2017. Each award for travel is handled on a reimbursement basis.

For more information about CEF and to apply for a grant, please visit www.apap365.org.

About the Association of Performing Arts Presenters
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600+ national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, culturally specific organizations and foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, national consulting practices that serve the field and a growing roster of self-represented artists. APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President and CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading convening for the performing arts (Jan. 15-19, 2016) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Founded in 1969, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies by supporting exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work.

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