***Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) to Receive $40,000 Grant
from the National Endowment for the Arts***

Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) has been approved for a $40,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the development and implementation of workshops and tools to help artist residency programs assess and build their equitable capacity. This project includes a series of targeted workshops to tackle critical gaps in equitable practice, and the field-wide adoption of a residency self-assessment tool, ACA's Five Pillars of a Healthy Residency.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from Artist Communities Alliance that help support the community's creative economy," said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. "Artist Communities Alliance is among the arts organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts."

Grounded in goals and values outlined in ACA's 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, trainings will engage programs across five key areas of organizational health: Identity, Program Design, Stewardship, Resource Development Development and Operational Excellence. This initiative will provide tactical strategies for program evaluation, equitable jury and selection models, staffing protocols and other key areas of residency operations. Workshops, running in tandem with continuous meta-network and field conversations, will foster a culture of inquiry, reflection, transparency and change.

"I developed this initiative to contribute to the stability of residencies and to help them build their equitable capacity, meaning the ability of an individual or organization to be equitable in their work and begin to dismantle white body supremacy," stated ACA Executive Director, Lisa Funderburke Hoffman. "We piloted these programs in 2021 and embarked on a journey of learning and growth with an amazing cohort of staff members from artist residency programs. We have already seen significant impact and change within the field and look forward to continuing to cultivate these learning opportunities."

ACA's project is among 1,248 projects across the United States - totaling $28,840,000 in funding - that were selected to receive this first round of fiscal year 2022 funding. **ACA congratulates the following member programs approved for Grants for Arts Projects awards in the Artist Communities category:**

3Arts
A Studio in the Woods
Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Arts
Art Omi
ACRE
Atlantic Center for the Arts
Boston Center for the Arts
Charlotte Street Foundation
Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts
Fine Arts Work Center
Fountainhead

Franconia Sculpture Park
The Hambidge Center
Headlands Center for the Art
Hermitage Artist Retreat
Josephine Sculpture Park
Kala Art Institute
MacDowell
Marble House Project
McColl Center for Art & Innovation
Oolite Arts
Ox-Bow
Penland School of Crafts

Ragdale Foundation
Roswell Artist-in-Residence Foundation
Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI)
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
Ucross Foundation
Union for Contemporary Art
The Watermill Center
Watershed

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

ABOUT ARTIST COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) is the international service organization for artist residency programs and artist-centered organizations. ACA's mission is to advocate for and support artist residency programs as a means of advancing the endeavors of all artists. Founded in 1991, ACA currently has more than 400 members in 50 U.S. states and 20 countries, and works on behalf of 1,500 residency programs worldwide. Since 2004, ACA has provided more than $4 million in direct grant funding to artists and artist residency centers.