



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Received a \$70,000 Art Works Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to Support Services to American Writers

Fairfax, VA, September 14 — AWP has received a \$70,000 grant to support production of AWP's upcoming Conference & Bookfair in Los Angeles, the organization's website (awpwriter.org), and the *Writer's Chronicle*, a magazine on the art and craft of writing. This grant is part of the NEA's second round of 2015 Art Works awards totaling \$26 million and supporting 960 projects nationwide.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "The NEA is committed to advancing learning, fueling creativity, and celebrating the arts in cities and towns across the United States. Funding these new projects represents a significant investment in both local communities and our nation's creative vitality."

AWP Executive Director David Fenza remarked, "The NEA has made possible AWP's great success in nurturing emerging literary talents and developing new audiences for the appreciation of contemporary literature. Over 12,000 people attended our last conference, and many more read our publications and visit our website. Convention bureaus estimate that the AWP Conference & Bookfair brings \$25 to \$30 million in economic activity to our conference's host city. This grant will stimulate both our literary culture and our economy."

The Art Works category supports the creation of and public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. These awards are for projects in thirteen arts disciplines and fields ranging from arts education to the visual arts. The NEA received 1,731 eligible Art Works applications, requesting more than \$86.3 million for FY 2015 support. With available appropriated funds, the NEA recommended 960 projects for funding for a total investment of \$25,599,000. For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

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The mission of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs is to foster literary achievement, to advance

the art of writing as essential to a good education, and to serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Founded in 1967, AWP supports nearly 50,000 writers, over 550 college and university creative writing programs, and 150 writers' conferences and centers.