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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWP to Receive $70,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Norfolk, VA — AWP (Association of Writers & Writing Programs) has been approved for a $70,000 Grants for Arts Projects award to support the 2025 AWP Conference & Bookfair.

The AWP Conference & Bookfair is the largest annual gathering of creative writers and creative writing college and university programs in the country. The conference and bookfair plays a crucial role in providing a space for professional development, networking, and exchange of ideas among writers and literary arts organizations nationwide in the spirit of AWP’s mission to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing. The AWP Conference & Bookfair is among the 1,135 projects nationwide, totaling more than $37 million, selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2024 funding.

“These projects exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts,” said NEA chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and well-being, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and this funding at the local, state, and regional levels demonstrates the National Endowment for the Arts’ commitment to ensuring people across the country benefit.”

AWP executive director Cynthia Sherman said, “We are grateful for the support provided by the NEA and the professional staff dedicated to nurturing and uplifting the arts. This grant allows AWP to expand programming and resources necessary for writers to build their artistic lives. The annual conference brings together creative writers from all backgrounds and the academic writing programs and community writing centers that sustain them in an inclusive space.”

Since 1973, the AWP Conference & Bookfair has been a place of connection, reunion, and joy for the literary arts sector. The funds from Grants for Arts Projects will ensure that the 2025 conference in Los Angeles, California, will perpetuate and build upon AWP’s long legacy of supporting creative writers. Funds from this grant will go to supporting accessibility services at the conference, continuing to support the AWP HBCU Fellowship Program, and supporting the AWP Tribal Colleges & Universities Fellowship Program in its inaugural year.
For more information on other projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.