

East Haddam, Connecticut – July 20, 2016

More Than \$82 Million Awarded for Arts Projects Nationwide Includes a \$20,000 Grant to the I-Park Foundation

The NEA grant will support a 2017 residency and exhibition of site-specific, ephemeral artworks in the landscape.

East Haddam, Connecticut, July 20, 2016 – National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of \$20,000 to the I-Park Foundation in support of its signature Environmental Art Biennale (residency and exhibition), which is scheduled for June, 2017. The Art Works category (Presenting, Multi-Disciplinary Works) supports the creation of new works, the presentation of both new and existing works, lifelong learning in the arts and public engagement with the arts. For the Environmental Art Biennale, a multi-disciplinary jury and curatorial panel will choose the 10 – 12 artists, or collaborating teams, who will create their installations during a 3-week residency. The public is invited to meet the artists during the opening exhibition on June 4, 2017.

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one proposed by I-Park offers more opportunities to engage the arts every day.”

I-Park's co-founder and Executive Director, Joanne Paradis, said, “We are very gratified to receive this important award by the NEA. We consider it an important milestone in our evolution within the not-for-profit world. The NEA grant, along with State of Connecticut, individual, foundation and corporate support will allow us to continue providing impactful, fully-funded artists' residency experiences, across a broad range of creative disciplines, in an intimate, collegial setting. We invite the public to attend some of this year's Open Studios events, including the one for our Experimental Family Residency on August 13 (all at I-Park) – and the special concerts emerging from our Composers + Musicians Collaborative Residency on August 28 (in Old Lyme) and August 30 (in NYC). The work that's being created at I-Park is truly exceptional!”

About I-Park: I-Park is both an open-air and a closed-studio laboratory for individual artistic pursuits in the fields of music composition/sound art, the visual arts, architecture, moving image, creative writing and landscape/garden/ecological design. From insights developed in the laboratory setting, it also develops and sponsors specially-themed cross-disciplinary projects of cultural significance – and brings these discoveries to light in the public domain.

I-Park supports these individual and collaborative investigations through its international artists-in-residence program, the aesthetic engagement of its natural and built environments and with on-site exhibitions, performances, symposia and special programs that facilitate artistic collaboration. Since its founding in 2001, I-Park has sponsored almost 800 fully-funded 4-week artists' residencies. For more information, please visit i-park.org.

For a complete list of the projects recommended for the Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at #NEASpring16.