



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Association of Performing Arts Professionals to receive National Endowment for the Arts grant to help lead the performing arts through the post-pandemic recovery**

May 21, 2021 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) has been approved for a \$55,000 Grants for Arts Projects award to support “APAP Leads”. This project will feature professional development programs and other services that are accessible to presenting, booking and touring professionals nationwide and focus on skill development, knowledge building, artistic discovery and networking, with a particular emphasis on navigating the COVID-19 crisis and reopening the performing arts. APAP’s project is among the more than 1,100 projects across America totaling nearly \$27 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2021 funding.

“As the country and the arts sector begin to imagine returning to a post-pandemic world, the National Endowment for the Arts is proud to announce funding that will help arts organizations such as the Association of Performing Arts Professionals reengage fully with partners and audiences,” said NEA Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. “Although the arts have sustained many during the pandemic, the chance to gather with one another and share arts experiences is its own necessity and pleasure.”

APAP has played a central role in advancing and strengthening the performing arts industry and in building the careers and networks of professionals by creating community and by championing artists and the power of the performing arts. Known for its an annual conference, “APAP is living more fully in our service mission than ever before, providing timely resources, information, connection and guidance year-round,” remarks Lisa Richards Toney, President and CEO of APAP. “As the arc of this recovery is long, we are here for the long haul for our members and for the field.”

“This grant recognizes the role APAP has in the performing arts field and supports our goal to help the field build back stronger and prepare for a more sustainable, collective future in which we all thrive,” continues Richards Toney. “The arts are essential, and APAP is essential to sustaining the whole arts ecosystem. We are committed to doing our part in helping carry the field forward.”



For more information on the projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://arts.gov/news).

**About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals**

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, 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 1,700 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting 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 Lisa Richards Toney** (<https://www.apap365.org/About/Who-We-Are/Staff/Lisa-Richards-Toney>). In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading gathering and marketplace for the performing arts—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting, booking and touring. For more information, visit <https://www.apap365.org>.

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