

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Megan Crow | communications@theLEAF.org

LEAF Community Arts to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

February 15, 2018 (Asheville, NC) - National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$10,000 to LEAF Community Arts to support LEAF Downtown AVL. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, diversity of public engagement, lifelong learning through the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to LEAF Community Arts are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring."

"Each summer, LEAF Downtown welcomes over 15,000 patrons from all walks of life to experience the very best of music, art, and culture in the heart of Asheville. Yet behind the smiles of excitement, is a community gathering that celebrates something more than just entertainment. LEAF Downtown is built upon a vision that events can honor diversity, equity, and family values while presenting world-class local & national talent. It is a space of welcoming where the community thrives through the vital contributions of partners and collaborators within the City, State, and nation. LEAF Community Arts is grateful for the generous support of the National Endowment of the Arts which allows LEAF Downtown to remain free and accessible to all." ~Ehren Cruz, Performing Arts Director

In August 2018, LEAF Community Arts will host a 2-day public music and arts festival titled **LEAF Downtown AVL**. The event will foster community engagement and showcase the diversity and uniqueness of Asheville and Western North Carolina. The project will be free to the public and hosted in the heart of downtown Asheville, North Carolina. LEAF Downtown AVL will host a wealth of community partner programming including three stages featuring over 200 local, regional & national level performers, 80+ local culinary and craft arts vendors, dozens of family adventure activities, a one-of-a-kind VIP experience and our [4th annual LEAF Art Dash 5K!](#) The public will also be encouraged to participate in art activities hosted by professional Teaching Artists, and social justice and community building workshops at the Voices of Asheville tent.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news. For more information on the 4th Annual LEAF Downtown AVL taking place August 3 & 4, 2018, visit theLEAF.org/Downtown.

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LEAF Community Arts, producer of LEAF Festival, is Mountain Xpress' Best of WNC:
#1 Nonprofit Serving the Arts | #1 Music Festival | #1 Camping Festival | #1 Kids Festival