



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: David Fenza, Executive Director
703.993.4301 david@awpwriter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWP Receives \$100,000 Art Works Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to Support Services to American Writers

Grant Is Part of NEA's Announcement of 788 Art Works Grants and \$24.81 Million in Funding to Arts Organizations Nationwide

Fairfax, VA, April 25, 2012 — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman announced today that AWP is one of 788 not-for-profit national, regional, state, and local organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. AWP is recommended for a \$100,000 grant to support production of the AWP Annual Conference & Bookfair, the organization's website (awpwriter.org), and the *Writer's Chronicle*, a magazine on the art of writing. The 788 Art Works grants total \$24.81 million and support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

Chairman Landesman said, "The arts should be a part of everyday life. Whether it's seeing a performance, visiting a gallery, participating in an art class, or simply taking a walk around a neighborhood enhanced by public art, these grants are ensuring that across the nation, the public is able to experience how art works."

AWP Executive Director David Fenza said, "The NEA has made possible AWP's great success in nurturing new literary talents. With the NEA's support, we have built one of the largest town squares for the appreciation of contemporary literature, as over 10,000 people attended our last conference, and many more read our publications and visit our website. Convention bureaus estimate that the AWP conference brings \$6 to \$9 million in economic activity to our conference's host city. This grant will stimulate both our literary culture and our economy."

The NEA received 1,624 eligible applications under the Art Works category for this round of funding, requesting more than \$78 million in funding. 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 500 college and university creative writing programs, and 100 writers' conferences and centers.