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## **UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY (UMS) RECEIVES NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT TO SUPPORT 2015 ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES**

*Grant one of 919 NEA Art Works grants  
totaling \$26.6 million in funding nationwide*

ANN ARBOR, MI (December 2, 2014) — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced this month that the University Musical Society (UMS) is one of 919 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. UMS is recommended for an \$35,000 grant to support artistic residencies in the 2015 calendar year.

An independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, UMS presents over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional, touring artists each season. Support from the NEA is critical in ensuring that UMS can continue to elevate the quality of life, education, and cultural relevancy in Michigan through the performing arts. Supported artistic residencies in the 2015 calendar year include Compagnie Marie Chouinard (1/23), Trisha Brown Dance Company (2/21-22), Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion (3/13-14), and the New York Philharmonic (10/9-11).

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "I'm pleased to be able to share the news of our support through Art Works including the award to UMS. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate those attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

Ken Fischer, UMS President said, "When UMS presents an artist, it isn't enough to deliver an incredible performance. The audiences of SE Michigan crave deep connections, in-depth conversations, and the kind of food for thought that only the world's finest artists can inspire. UMS is committed to connecting artists and audiences in deep and meaningful ways through our performances as well as our university masterclasses, artist interactions for K-12 students, community classes for continued learning, and other artistic residency activities. We are thrilled that the NEA supports this commitment and look forward to the calendar year to come."

Art Works grants support the creation of art, public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,474 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$75 million in funding. Of those applications, 919 are recommended for grants for a total of \$26.6 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov). Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at #NEAFall2014.

One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS is committed to connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. With a program steeped in music, dance, and theater, UMS contributes to a vibrant cultural community by presenting approximately 60-75 performances and over 100 free educational activities each season. UMS also commissions new work, sponsors artist residencies, and organizes collaborative projects with local, national, and international partners.

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