

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 14, 2022

Contact:

Heshan Berents-Weeramuni heshan@bostonarts.org
617-417-5574

Boston Center for the Arts to Receive Two National Endowment for the Arts Grant Awards Totaling \$110,000

Boston, MA—Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is pleased to announce that BCA is recommended to receive a \$100,000 American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). BCA will use this funding to fund personnel, operations and facilities, health and safety supplies, and marketing and promotional efforts to encourage attendance and participation in its programming. In total, the NEA will award grants totaling \$57,750,000 to 567 arts organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC.

In addition, BCA is also pleased to announce that the NEA has approved BCA for an additional \$10,000 Grants for Arts Projects award to support residency programs for artists working in all disciplines. The Grants for Arts Projects award will help continue BCA's many residency programs, all geared to ensure Boston's working artists are given the time, resources, and space to conceive and develop new work. BCA's project is among 1,248 projects across America totaling \$28,840,000 that were selected to receive this first round of fiscal year 2022 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects category.

"Our nation's arts sector has been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Endowment for the Arts' American Rescue Plan funding will help arts



organizations, such as Boston Center for the Arts, rebuild and continue to reopen," said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the NEA. "The arts are crucial in helping America's communities heal, unite, and inspire, as well as being essential to our nation's economic recovery."

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from Boston Center for the Arts that help support the community's creative economy," said NEA Deputy Chair Ann Eilers. "Boston Center for the Arts is among the arts organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to wellbeing, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts."

"We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for their support of our continued rebuilding and reopening efforts, and of our residency programs. Both awards will directly further our mission to support Boston's artists and make Boston a place where artists can thrive," said Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) Co-Executive Director Emily Foster Day. "BCA's varied arts programming and its multi-disciplinary residency programs—ranging from five-day to two- and three-year residencies—all provide pivotal opportunities for artists to grow and further their work. And they enable Boston's arts communities to exponentially blossom. In receiving this grant, BCA is pleased to be recognized by the NEA as playing such a key role in growing and sustaining Boston's art and cultural ecosystem."

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. To learn more, visit arts.gov/news.

About Boston Center for the Arts

<u>Boston Center for the Arts (BCA)</u> supports working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new works; develops new audiences; and connects the arts to community, and has for over five decades engaged the creative community for public good. While the

organization's physical residence is in the historic South End, BCA touches every part of Boston's cultural ecosystem. A leading force in the city's cultural community, BCA has supported thousands of individual artists, small organizations and performing arts companies, who add depth and dimension to the Boston arts ethos. Through residencies and programming, BCA serves as an epicenter for an expanding cohort of artists working across all disciplines, and has catalyzed careers by providing fertile ground for experimentation and artistic risk-taking. To learn more about Boston Center for the Arts, visit bostonarts.org.

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law in March 2021 when the NEA was provided \$135 million for the arts sector. The funding for organizations is the third installment providing more than \$57.7 million for arts organizations. In April 2021, the NEA <u>announced</u> \$52 million (40 percent) in ARP funding would be allocated to 62 state, jurisdictional, and regional arts organizations for regranting through their respective programs. The second installment in November 2021 <u>allocated</u> \$20.2 million to 66 local arts agencies for subgranting to local artists and art organizations.

For more information on the NEA's American Rescue Plan grants, including the full list of arts organizations funded in this announcement, visit www.arts.gov/COVID-19/the-american-rescue-plan.

###