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NEW YORK STATE GRANTS SUPPORT BETHEL WOODS' EDUCATION & OUTREACH INITIATIVES

BETHEL, NY (February 16, 2016) – Bethel Woods Center for the Art is pleased to announce it has received three grants from the **New York State Council on the Arts** (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. These grants will support and enrich arts and humanities-based programming at Bethel Woods.

The first, a \$5,000 grant from **The Museum Association of New York** (MANY), in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts, will be used to pilot the expansion of the 2nd – 12th grade arts education program, **Explore the '60s**. Drawing inspiration from the content of The Museum and its collections, elementary through high school classes participate in a 3 module experience that leaves students with a deepened understanding of the pivotal 1960s decade, as well as lessons that are relevant today – inducing individual expression, social responsibility, and heightened cultural engagement. Explore the '60s is crafted to inspire, educate, and empower.

This grant will help extend onsite educational programming into the community's schools, by placing a teaching artist directly into the classroom to work with the students. This will significantly deepen the experience and program's impact. Educators are encouraged to learn more, or apply for the program by visiting bethelwoodscenter.org or via email education@bethelwoodscenter.org.

NYSCA is also funding a series of five folk music and dance performances at the 2016 Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, exploring the cultural traditions of the surrounding Catskills region and beyond. Each presentation will include a performance and a family-friendly workshop component, with a different folk arts tradition highlighted each week. This project will engage a wide range of people from throughout Sullivan County and the Catskills region in diverse and artistically excellent folk arts presentations.

Lastly, NYSCA will also provide \$13,000 over two years to support **PLAY: Theater**, a sequential summer childrens program offering the opportunity to engage in theater arts through an exploration of creative writing, theater techniques and technical theater skills to develop original pieces for performance.

In 2015, community and educational programming at Bethel Woods served nearly 30,000 individuals and families. Explore the 60's attracted 24 groups from 11 counties in three states. At the five Sunday Harvest Festivals 1,160 participated in the Family Art Tent. Over half of PLAY: Theater participants received direct home to program transportation thanks to support from First Niagara Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation and The Williams Endowed Education Fund at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Bethel Woods Chief Executive Officer, Darlene Fedun, closed in saying, “We are grateful for the support and generosity of NYSCA and other charitable donations, which make these programs possible. The arts are vital to our youth and our community. We will continue to enhance our programming, which in turn will continue empowering the next generation.”

For more information on programs, becoming a teaching artist, or donating to Bethel Woods visit bethelwoodscenter.org.

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About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming. Located 90 miles from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 15,000, an intimate 440-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming.

Through the in-depth study and exhibition of the social, political, and cultural events of the 1960s, as well as the preservation of the historic site of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, Bethel Woods educates individuals about the issues and lessons of the decade while inspiring a new generation to contribute positively to the world around them. The not-for-profit organization relies on the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations to develop and sustain programs that improve the quality of life in the region and beyond.

For more information please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.

About The Museum Association of New York

The Mini-Grants are offered to help museums and historical societies strengthen and develop their institutions and work with their communities. These grants, administered by the Museum Association of New York are designed to make it easy for organizations to access professional help and improve their institutions. To learn more about these grant programs, eligibility requirements and deadlines, visit the Museum Association of New York's website at www.manyonline.org or contact the Museum Association of New York, by email at info@manyonline.org and by phone at 518.273.3400.