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## **Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Receives Grant from New York State Council on the Arts**

*In Support of Vital Cultural Programs*

**BETHEL, NY (November 13, 2019)** – **Bethel Woods Center for the Arts**, the nonprofit cultural arts organization located at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival, today announced that it has been awarded a grant from the **New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)** for 2020 with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. NYSCA grants support the transformative impact of the performing, literary, visual and media arts in New York State.

Bethel Woods is one of 462 arts organizations across New York State receiving a total of \$8,383,993 million in grants through NYSCA's most recent round of funding to support arts programs that drive New York State's economic growth and community health.

Bethel Woods received funding to support **P.L.A.Y. Music and Theater**, which provide summer learning experiences in each discipline that allow young participants, ages 9 to 15, to walk away empowered with tools they will continue to use as young citizens who choose to engage in a creative life.

"Our P.L.A.Y. programs encourage individual expression, social consciousness, and cultural engagement," said **Darlene Fedun, Chief Executive Officer, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts**. "We are grateful for the ongoing support from NYSCA; the organization has provided funding to our arts education program for young people for the past 4 years. The support of the arts council has truly been helpful."

"The arts and culture are a critical driver of health in people and places," said **Mara Manus, Executive Director, New York State Council on the Arts**. "Our state's creative industries generate a total of \$120 billion to the state economy, account for 466,000 jobs, and play a significant role in revitalization, education and social justice."

NYSCA support goes to museums, theatres, and arts organizations that drive tourism and anchor communities and arts education programs essential to learning for all ages, including public school students, aging populations and at-risk youth.

NYSCA grants also support creative arts programs promoting physical and mental health and personal and professional development in historically underserved and vulnerable communities, including those in geographically remote areas; disabled communities; impoverished and homeless populations; and justice-involved youth and adults.

Annually, NYSCA grants are awarded in 15 discipline programs and the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Over the last two years, NYSCA has awarded an additional \$30 million in capital funding to 71 organizations statewide fueling community development and tourism, and will announce additional capital grant awards this year.

“New York’s cultural sector is a driving force in our state’s economy,” said **Katherine Nicholls, Chair, New York State Council on the Arts**. “As our arts organizations expand their audiences and programs with NYSCA support, we will serve many more New Yorkers and build the vitality of our communities statewide.”

The most recent NYSCA grant awards were made through the agency’s Arts Education, Special Arts Services, Museum, Theatre, Music, Dance, Literature, and Visual Arts Programs. A list of NYSCA grantees searchable by program and location is available [here](#).

Additional NYSCA funding will be announced in late 2019, including support for presenting organizations, individual artist commissions, and, through the Regional Economic Development Council, programs driving economic growth and building New York State’s workforce.

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#### About The New York State Council on the Arts

The New York State Council on the Arts champions community and creativity by preserving and advancing numerous aspects of the cultural heritage that makes New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit.

NYSCA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development and quality of life. Through its core grantmaking activity, NYSCA awarded \$51M in FY2019 to 2,400 organizations statewide through direct grants and regrants in our 15 programs, the Regional Economic Development Council initiative and the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund. NYSCA funding supports the visual, literary, media and performing arts and includes dedicated support for arts education and underserved communities. NYSCA further advances New York’s creative culture by hosting convenings with leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources.

Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960, and continued and expanded to the present day with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, NYSCA is an agency of the Executive Branch of the New York State Government. For more information on NYSCA, please visit: [www.arts.ny.gov](http://www.arts.ny.gov)

#### 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](http://www.BethelWoodsCenter.org).