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### **Kentuck Art Center to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

[*NORTHPORT, ALABAMA*]*—*Kentuck Art Center is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000. This grant will support Kentuck's Boxes of Joy, a program that provides art supply kits and additional arts instruction to youth in Tuscaloosa and Northport who are considered economically disadvantaged or incarcerated. This grant is one of 262 Challenge America awards totaling \$2.62 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Projects such as this one with Kentuck Art Center strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy."

With funding from the Challenge America grant, Kentuck Art Center is partnering with several organizations throughout the community, including Northport Housing Authority, Tuscaloosa One Place Extended Day Program at Matthews Elementary, and the Tuscaloosa Juvenile Detention Center to bring craft kits to over 200 children, ages 5-21. In addition to quarterly craft kits to each of these organizations, artists will lead in-person activities that provide an opportunity for these children to express themselves in a healthy, safe, positive way.

"Kentuck's Board of Directors and staff members are thrilled to be able to continue and expand Boxes of Joy," said Amy Echols, Executive Director of Kentuck Art Center. "Kentuck is grateful for such wonderful partnering organizations in our community, and we're looking forward to improving accessibility to the arts for our youth."

For more information about Kentuck's Boxes of Joy, visit <https://www.kentuck.org/boxes-of-joy>. For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).



Kentuck Art Center and Festival was established in 1971. Kentuck's mission is to perpetuate the arts, engage the community, and empower the artist. The Kentuck Festival of the Arts is nationally recognized for its quality, diversity, and celebration of artistic style ranging from folk to contemporary arts and traditional crafts. The 52nd Kentuck Festival of the Arts is October 14-15, 2023 at Kentuck Park in Northport, Alabama.

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**Our Contact Information**

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