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**New York Folklore Society Receives NEA Art Works Grant to Support  
Statewide Folk Arts Activities**

*Grant part of NEA announcement of 788 Art Works grants and  
\$24.81 million in funding nationwide*

**Schenectady**— National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman has announced that the New York Folklore Society is one of 788 not-for-profit national, regional, state, and local organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. The New York Folklore Society is recommended for two grants, totaling \$65,000.00, to support its statewide activities supporting folk and traditional arts. The 788 Art Works grants total \$24.81 million and support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

The New York Folklore Society, located at 129 Jay Street, Schenectady, is New York's statewide resource for folk and traditional arts, providing technical assistance, information, and educational services to artists, cultural workers, and organizations. Grants from the NEA specifically support the New York Folklore Society's ongoing technical assistance activities. Also receiving funding is a new initiative of the New York Folklore Society, a Latino Dance Symposium, will provide a professional development opportunity for the myriad of community-based Latino dance programs in New York State which work with youth. The 2013 symposium will provide professional development for adult leaders who teach the dance styles of Latin and South America. At the same time, it will provide an opportunity for teen dancers to showcase their own traditional dance styles to their peers. The symposium will culminate in a final performance which will be open to the general public.

Chairman Landesman said, “The arts should be a part of everyday life. Whether it’s seeing a performance, visiting a gallery, participating in an art class, or simply taking a walk around a neighborhood enhanced by public art, these grants are ensuring that across the nation, the public is able to experience how art works.” The NEA received 1,624 eligible applications under the Art Works category for this round of funding, requesting more than \$78 million in funding. For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

Founded in 1944 and located in Schenectady since 1999, the New York Folklore Society provides technical assistance through its Mentoring Program for Folklife and the Traditional Arts. The non-profit organization assists community grassroots folk cultural organizations with programming and administrative skills, and they assist cultural specialists with the honing of skills relevant to folk arts documentation and presentation. The New York Folklore Society’s Schenectady Community Documentation Program trains teens in the techniques and skills of documenting their own communities through interviewing, and audio and video production. The organization operates a consignment folk art gallery out of their storefront location at 129 Jay Street, Schenectady. For further information about the New York Folklore Society, its history and its programs, visit them online at [www.nyfolklore.org](http://www.nyfolklore.org).

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