

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2019**

**Media Contact: Jessica Bertram, [jbertram@nbaf.org](mailto:jbertram@nbaf.org)**

## **National Endowment for the Arts Announces More than \$27 Million in Grants Reaching All 50 States, DC, and Puerto Rico – National Black Arts Festival is a Grant Recipient**

**Atlanta, GA – The National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) is pleased to announce that it is a grantee of the 2019 grant awards announced by the National Endowment for the Arts.** This announcement of more than \$27 million in grants, supports the National Endowment for the Arts in continuing its efforts to provide all Americans with the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts. These fiscal year 2019 grants will reach all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This is the first of two major grant announcements in fiscal year 2019 and includes three of the agency’s funding categories: Art Works and Challenge America to support projects by nonprofit organizations, and Creative Writing Fellowships. Through these grants, the National Endowment for the Arts supports local economies and preserves American heritage while embracing new forms of creative expression.

“The arts enhance our communities and our lives, and we look forward to seeing these projects take place throughout the country, giving Americans opportunities to learn, to create, to heal, and to celebrate,” said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The National Black Arts Festival is proud to be a grantee in the Art Works category of this highly competitive national process. The funds from the grant award will support NBAF’s Move/Dance! program which is a school-based arts education program targeting Title 1 middle-schools in Atlanta,” said Vikki Millender-Morrow, president and CEO of the National Black Arts Festival.

The Move/Dance! program brings much needed arts education to Atlanta schools in underserved areas. As an interventionist approach the program works closely with the school faculty to establish a deep and sustained partnership based on collaboratively defined needs, structure, approach, performance/success metrics and outcomes that best supports the school’s academic, health, and arts education goals. The program marries the creative arts with the goal of addressing prevalent health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and other conditions that plague our communities, with fun dance lessons that support movement and exercise. This program has supported over 500 youth since inception in 2016, and have partnered with Sylvan, Young and King, and Bunche Middle Schools.

###

The National Black Arts Festival (NBAF), a nonprofit organization with over 30 years of history in artistic excellence, was founded in 1987 by the Fulton County Arts Council under the guidance of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. NBAF is recognized as the oldest multidisciplinary arts organization in the US focused exclusively on the arts and artists of African descent. The United States Congress honored NBAF as a “national treasure” in 2008, and in 2018 NBAF received the Governor’s Award for Arts and Humanities in Georgia.

Visit our website to learn more: [www.nbaf.org](http://www.nbaf.org). Follow NBAF on Face Book, Twitter and Instagram.