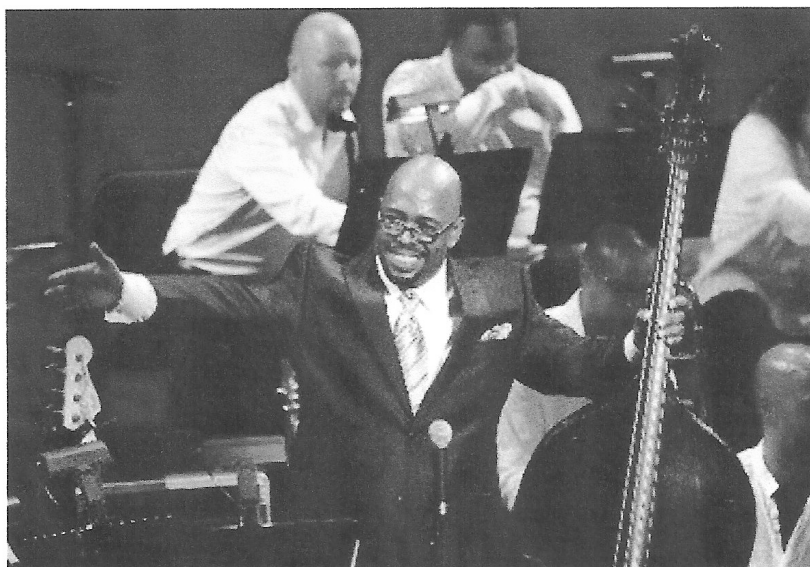


NEA delays grants to state partners, funds 817 projects nationwide



Jazz House Kids leader Christian McBride, pictured here at the Jazz House Kids at 10 celebration last fall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, will use a National Endowment for the Arts grant to support a free outdoor jazz festival in Montclair. (Noah K. Murray /The Star Ledger)

An outdoor jazz festival presented by Jazz House Kids in Montclair, a Wagner opera in Princeton and in-school dance residencies in East Orange are among 15 New Jersey projects that will share \$284,500 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The New Jersey awards are among 817 nationwide totaling \$26.3 million that were announced yesterday.

The money is significantly less than what was awarded last year because the federal budget sequester has forced the NEA to delay distribution of state and regional partnership grants. Typically announced in April, the grants represent a substantial portion of the NEA's total grants budget.

Last year, grants totaling more than \$48.8 million were awarded to state and regional arts councils nationwide, including \$879,000 to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Those grants for 2013 are on hold until the agency has a final budget, according to an NEA spokeswoman. A public announcement is expected within several weeks.

Nick Paleologos, executive director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, said the delay will not adversely affect the council.

"We've been planning, based on the sequester since it first came up in January, and we've been expecting anywhere from a five- to eight-percent cut," Paleologos said. "It's not going to be a big surprise here."

While the final grant amount will be delayed, it will be known before the end of June, when the council's grants committee makes its final determinations, he said.

The NEA grants announced yesterday range from \$4,000 to \$125,000 and represent projects in 13 artistic fields and disciplines, including arts education, dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, museums, opera, theater and media.

The largest New Jersey award is \$35,000 to the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades for its Thurnauer School of Music. WBGO-Jazz 88, Newark Public Radio, will receive \$30,000 for its weekly performance series, "Jazz Night in America."

Fairleigh Dickinson University's Appalachian Heritage festival at the Teaneck campus, Sculpture Magazine, a project of the International Sculpture Center in Hamilton, and Montclair State's "Permission Grants: Three New Works Without Compromise" each will receive \$25,000 awards.

The NEA will continue to support Music For All Seasons in Scotch Plains with \$22,000 for its music programs for at-risk children living in shelters, and it will contribute \$10,000 to Sharron Miller's Academy of Performing Arts in Montclair for it to expand its in-school residency program in the East Orange School District.

The Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn will receive \$20,000 for its sensory-friendly performances and the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway will get \$20,000 for its "Masters on Masters" concert series and public radio broadcasts

The remaining state grants are: \$17,500 to The Princeton Festival to support Wagner's opera, "The Flying Dutchman;" \$15,000 to the Princeton Symphony Orchestra for

"Freedom to Move: The Migration Series," \$10,000 to Jazz House Kids Inc. in Montclair for a free outdoor jazz festival at Nishuane Park; \$10,000 to the American Repertory Ballet for the restaging of Kurt Jooss' "The Green Table;" \$10,000 to Writers at Camden, workshops and discussions at Rutgers University-Camden, and \$10,000 to the Writer's Voice Program at the Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts.