



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AWARDS PRESTIGIOUS GRANT TO CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE
\$45,000 grant will support capacity building initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- December 6, 2010—SAN DIEGO - Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), announced that the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) has been awarded a prestigious grant of \$45,000 in the category of Access to Artistic Excellence to support ongoing efforts to increase access and participation on behalf of San Diego's arts and culture organizations.

San Diego is one of only two arts councils in California to receive this competitive grant and was awarded the second highest dollar amount among nearly a dozen arts councils nationwide. The Commission has worked diligently to gain recognition by the NEA and helped coordinate two visits by Chairman Landesman to San Diego that helped showcase San Diego's arts and culture treasures to a nationwide audience. During his national "Art Works" tour earlier this year he visited several cultural institutions, hosted a community forum and met with many arts leaders. In May, he returned to San Diego and joined Mayor Jerry Sanders and several Arts Commissioners at Balboa Park for the kick off of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with more than 800 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families during the summer.

>Read story and view video here: <http://www.nea.gov/news/news10/blue-star-museums.html>

The Commission is one of 1,057 not-for-profit organizations recommended for a grant as part of the federal agency's first round of fiscal year 2011 grants. In total, the NEA will distribute \$26.68 million to support projects nationwide. "This funding combined with recent California Arts Council funding enables us to continue to build momentum through San Diego Art + Sol, a collaborative marketing partnership between the Commission, the San Diego Foundation and the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau to help San Diego's nonprofit arts and culture organizations Survive and Thrive during these challenging economic times," said Victoria Hamilton, Executive Director, City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

An independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment advances artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, "I continue to be impressed with the creative, innovative, and excellent projects brought forward by arts organizations across the country. Our grantees are not only furthering their art forms but also enhancing their neighborhoods by making them more vibrant, livable, and fun."

*The **National Endowment for the Arts** was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government that has awarded more than \$4 billion on projects of artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. Learn more at arts.gov*

*The mission of the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture** is to vitalize the city by integrating arts and culture into community life while supporting the region's cultural assets and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination. For more information call (619) 236-6778 or visit www.VibrantCultureVibrantCity.com*

