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**Art and Artists to Become Integral Part of Minneapolis Planning
and Public Spaces, Thanks to ArtPlace Grant**

***ArtPlace releases 47 grants supporting creative placemaking
initiatives in 33 communities nationwide***

(Chicago, IL, June 12, 2012) Three unique, arts-driven projects in Minneapolis will receive almost \$1 million in grant funding from ArtPlace, the organization announced today.

Intermedia Arts, a non-profit arts and cultural center in South Minneapolis, is one of the recipients, with a project that will embed artists in the city's planning process. The program focuses on Minneapolis communities that are undergoing critical change and are ripe for the infusion of artists and diverse perspectives. Possible projects to receive artist involvement include the development of transit corridors, planning around environmental issues and the transformation infrastructure.

Intermedia Arts will receive a \$325,000 grant from **ArtPlace**, a new national collaboration of 11 major national and regional foundations, six of the nation's largest banks, and eight federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, to accelerate creative placemaking across the U.S. To date, ArtPlace has raised almost \$50 million to work alongside federal and local governments to transform communities with strategic investments in the arts.

"Across the country, cities and towns are using the arts to help shape their social, physical, and economic characters," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "The arts are a part of everyday life, and I am thrilled to see yet another example of an arts organization working with city,

state, and federal offices to help strengthen and revitalize their communities through the arts. It is wonderful that ArtPlace and its funders have recognized this work and invested in it so generously."

The Pillsbury House + Theatre and the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) are the other two local recipients.

Pillsbury House + Theatre will receive \$250,000 to establish a new Chicago Avenue Arts District. Chicago Avenue runs through one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Minneapolis metro area, and has seen new investment in the past year by a handful of arts groups. The Chicago Avenue Arts District will help forge these emerging assets into a creative network. The project will engage community residents, artists, youth, businesses, arts nonprofits and others in creating and consuming art.

The final ArtPlace grant in Minneapolis is also the largest, with \$435,000 dedicated to create a new front door for the Native American Cultural Corridor. The half-mile corridor was established in 2010 with the goal of revitalizing a low income neighborhood with the densest urban population of Native Americans in the country. The undeveloped light rail station area at one end of the Corridor has been a barrier to connecting the heart of the Cultural Corridor to transit and the adjacent Seward Neighborhood. This project will develop a unique cultural gateway and arts market at the station to welcome people to the corridor and serves as a unique community gathering space. Public art, festivals and food will make it an inviting entrance to the neighborhood.

"These Minneapolis projects receiving ArtPlace funding exemplify the best in creative placemaking," explained ArtPlace's Carol Coletta. "They demonstrate a deep understanding of how smart investments in art, design and culture as part of a larger portfolio of revitalization strategies can change the trajectory of communities and increase economic opportunities for people."

ArtPlace received almost 2200 letters of inquiry from organizations seeking a portion of the \$15.4 million available for grants in this cycle. Inquiries came from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands.

In September, ArtPlace will release a new set of metrics to measure changes over time in the people, activity and real estate value in the communities where ArtPlace has invested with its grants.

Participating foundations include Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, The Robina Foundation, The William Penn Foundation and an anonymous donor. In addition to the NEA, federal partners are the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education and Transportation, along with leadership from the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Domestic Policy Council. ArtPlace is also supported by a \$12 million loan fund capitalized by six major financial institutions and managed by the Nonprofit Finance Fund. Participating institutions are Bank of America, Citi, Deutsche Bank, Chase, MetLife and Morgan Stanley.

A complete list of this year's ArtPlace awards can be found at artplaceamerica.org.