FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2019
Contact: Barbara Reed
Public Information Officer
334-242-5153
barbara.reed@arts.alabama.gov

STATE ARTS COUNCIL APPLAUDS FEDERAL FUNDING

The National Endowment for the Arts announced today that it has awarded grants totaling $816,100 to three Alabama arts organizations including the Alabama State Council on the Arts. These federal grants support arts education and arts projects in Alabama. In addition, the Endowment works in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) to ensure that the people of Alabama have access to the arts. A grant of $776,100 to ASCA helps to support projects throughout Alabama.

In announcing the grants, National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter said, *"Reflecting the diverse artistic richness of our nation, these Arts Endowment-funded projects are varied in their size, scope, and artistic discipline. The projects also illustrate the unique geographic reach of Arts Endowment funding, serving Americans in places large and small in all corners of the country."*

Dr. Elliot Knight, Executive Director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, said, *"The National Endowment for the Arts support is vital to enriching Alabama's communities and expanding the quality of life for its citizens. These federal funds support arts education activities, arts projects, folklife, as well as programming in diverse disciplines throughout the state. Alabama will greatly benefit from this federal investment in the arts."* Federal funds are combined with additional funding appropriated by the Alabama Legislature and are re-granted to over 200 organizations annually across Alabama. The return on investment is powerful and significant and helps attract new business to the state. Businesses considering a move into Alabama seek an active and vibrant arts community. Research has proven that artistic exposure and involvement stimulates minds, and offers different methods of solving problems. In addition, the National Endowment for the Arts works to ensure that people throughout the country have access to the arts, in their communities and as part of their educational and life experiences. Every grant that Alabama makes at the state level is a reflection of that national effort to make the arts available to all of our citizens. The Alabama State Council on the Arts is proud to work with its federal partner, expanding the benefit of the arts.

In addition to applying for grants offered by ASCA, we encourage arts organizations throughout Alabama to stay informed about the National Endowment for the Arts grant programs and to submit applications directly to the NEA for support of future endeavors.

Here is the list of Alabama grants recently announced by the National Endowment for the Arts:

Alabama's Number of Grants: 3 ***Total Dollar Amount: $816,100***

Sloss Furnaces Foundation, Inc. (aka Sloss)
$20,000 Birmingham, AL
Art Works - Arts Education - To support a summer youth apprenticeship program in metal arts.

Space One Eleven, Inc.
$20,000 Birmingham, AL
Art Works - Visual Arts - To support an exhibition by contemporary artists exploring issues related to addressing gun violence and safety.

Alabama State Council on the Arts
$776,100 Montgomery, AL
Partnerships - State & Regional - To support arts programs, services, and activities associated with carrying out the agency's National Endowment for the Arts-approved strategic plan.

About the National Endowment for the Arts
Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.

About the Alabama State Council on the Arts
The Alabama State Council on the Arts is the official state arts agency of Alabama. The staff of the Council, directed by Dr. Elliot Knight, administers the grants programs and provides technical assistance in arts planning and programming. The Council receives its support through an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.