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## **Cathedral Arts receives \$25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Arts**

**Jacksonville, Fla. (July 13, 2009)** – The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded the Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) a \$25,000 stimulus grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Cathedral Arts was the only arts in education program funded in the state and one of three organizations in Jacksonville, 14 in Florida and 631 in the nation to receive the one-time grant.

In keeping with the Recovery Act's goal of preserving jobs threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the economic downturn, the funds will be used to pay teachers and therefore reinstate at least five afterschool programs. Cathedral Arts makes music, art and dance classes available to underserved students who would not typically have access to these programs.

"It was a very competitive grant-making process. We were one of more than 2,400 organizations that applied," said The Reverend Kimberly L. Hyatt, executive director of Cathedral Arts Project. "The fact that Duval County had three of the 14 grants awarded in the state is significant."

The other area recipients included the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra with \$50,000 and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville at \$250,000.

"Jacksonville residents should be very proud that \$325,000 has been secured to preserve jobs in the arts for our area," said Hyatt. "This is our third time receiving a grant from NEA and all of their grants are extremely competitive."

Over 1,200 students were enrolled in Cathedral Arts' afterschool classes last year. The program's mission is to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people. By providing access to instruction in the visual and performing arts, CAP empowers underserved school-aged children to succeed in all areas of their lives.

Today, CAP has grown to become the largest provider of free, ongoing and standards-based instruction in the visual and performing arts for public school students in Duval County. The Cathedral Arts Project is funded in part by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, The City of Jacksonville, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information, contact Melanie Messer, director of community relations, at (904) 281-5599, ext. 18.

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