



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 16, 2024

# **Richmond Performing Arts Alliance to Receive \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Richmond, VA—Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (RPAA) is pleased to announce they have been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$20,000.

This grant will support the Lights Up! for Educators program, providing professional development to a cohort of local performing arts educators, incorporating lessons and hands-on training from subject experts. In total, the NEA will award 1,135 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$37 million as part of its second round of fiscal year 2024 grants. Congratulations to the other Richmond-based organizations receiving this award - 1708 Gallery, University of Richmond, Venture Richmond, and Virginia Commission for the Arts.

“Projects like Lights Up! for Educators exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connections, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD.

“So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit.”

“We are incredibly grateful that the NEA has recognized the value of RPAA's professional development programming for educators, investing in a critical part of our vision to provide community members equitable access to high-quality arts education and learning opportunities. RPAA has strong partnerships with the school systems in our region that know the importance of arts education for students's personal and academic development. As we grow our footprint of inclusive and accessible programming, this grant from the NEA will help equip educators with the tools they need to support student success through the arts.” - RPAA Executive Director, Abbi Leinwand Haggerty, PhD

### **Lights Up! For Educators**

RPAA's Lights Up! For Educators is a free professional development series that provides performing arts educators with practical, arts-focused instruction on content specific to their field. The program is structured as a 10-educator cohort that attends 4 training sessions throughout the year. An additional 3-day summer drop-in session will be offered to the cohort as well as any other interested arts educator, capped at 50 participants. Each Lights Up! training day provides thorough instruction from an industry professional with topics including sound design, light design, stage combat, special effects makeup, intimacy coordination, set building, and more. A full day is spent diving into the topic with introductory lessons followed by guided hands-on experiences. Instructors are trained experts with years of experience in their

subject. Educators have full access to the equipment and materials during the day to connect their training to their real-world practice, equipping educators to share this knowledge with their peers and students.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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### **RICHMOND PERFORMING ARTS ALLIANCE (RPAA)**

Advancing the performing arts in the Richmond region through programs and resources that **SUPPORT** the artists of today, **NURTURE** the artists of tomorrow, and provide spaces for the arts to **THRIVE**. Its family of venues include Dominion Energy Center, home to the historic Carpenter Theatre, Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse, Bob & Sally Mooney Hall, and the Genworth BrightLights Education Center, as well as Altria Theater – the largest performance venue between New York and Atlanta. RPAA's BrightLights Education Initiatives provide accessible arts education to children throughout the Richmond region in the public school system, at community centers, and in the venues.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Follow RPAA at @rpaalliance on Facebook and Instagram to follow this journey

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:** For all press and media inquiries, please contact Ashley Moore at [amoore@rpaalliance.com](mailto:amoore@rpaalliance.com)