



MESA ARTS CENTER

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Mesa Arts Center to receive a \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for Spark Youth Media Festival

Mesa, AZ -Mesa Arts Center in partnership with ASU's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts has been approved for a \$40,000 *Grants for Arts Projects Award* from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the Spark Youth Media Festival. This project is among 1,125 projects across America totaling more than \$26.6 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2022 funding.

"We are so excited about the support from the NEA for this important project. We look forward to working with our colleagues at ASU and visiting artists to collaborate with and support youth as they explore new media, share their creative voices and build relationships within a supportive community of peers and mentors," said Cindy Ornstein, Executive Director, Mesa Arts Center.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts and cultural organizations throughout the nation with these grants, including **Mesa Arts Center**, providing opportunities for all of us to live artful lives," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D. "The arts contribute to our individual well-being, the well-being of our communities, and to our local economies. The arts are also crucial to helping us make sense of our circumstances from different perspectives as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for a shared new normal informed by our examined experience."

Mesa Arts Center in partnership with ASU's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts will present a new media festival celebrating diverse, and especially marginalized, youth voices. The Spark Youth Media Festival will debut March 9-11, 2023, on the adjacent campuses of MAC and the new ASU @ Mesa City Center, home of the Sidney Poitier New American Film School. It will share the creative voices of youth in the age range of high school, community college and university through film/video, augmented/virtual/extended reality and games and interactive art, and provide master classes and public workshops.

"This award will be invaluable for continuing to deepen and expand our partnerships with Mesa Arts Center, and the resulting festival will help to energize the youth of the entire region to take part in telling new stories and creating new worlds in digital media," said Jake Pinholster, Founding Director of the Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) Center at ASU.

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning, international award-winning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The facility is an architectural showpiece and a destination for visitors to the Phoenix area. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic and welcoming environments. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

ASU'S HERBERGER INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS

Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts is the largest comprehensive design and arts school in the country, located within a dynamic research university focused on transformative change. Built on a unique combination of disciplines, the Herberger Institute comprises the Schools of Art; Arts, Media and Engineering; Music, Dance and Theatre; The Design School; The Sidney Poitier New American Film School, and the ASU Art Museum. The Herberger Institute is committed to redefining the 21st-century design and arts school through developing and scaling ideas that strengthen the role of designers and artists across all areas of society and culture, increasing the capacity of artists to make a difference in their communities. herbergerinstitute.asu.edu/