



Media Contacts:

Iveth Mosquera, 908 234-0011, ext. 273; imosquera@matheny.org
Eileen Murray, 908 234-0011, ext. 442, Eileen@artsaccessprogram.org

News from Matheny

Matheny's Arts Access Program Receives NEA Grant to Support Full Circle

January 18, 2017, PEAPACK, NJ – National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently announced that the Matheny Medical and Educational Center's Arts Access Program is one of 134 not-for-profit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Challenge America grant. Arts Access is being awarded a \$10,000 grant to support Full Circle, the program's annual celebratory event, which showcases art created by individuals with disabilities. The Full Circle project includes an exhibition displaying original artwork created by artists with disabilities; and a multimedia performance of the artists' original choreography, plays and spoken word with professional guest artists.

In this FY 2017, the NEA awarded 134 Challenge America Fast-Track grants totaling \$1.34 million awarded to organizations throughout the country and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Challenge America category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.

Eileen Murray, Director of the Matheny's Arts Access Program, said, "We are extremely honored and gratified to receive this award, which will help us to celebrate and honor the creative achievements of our artists with disabilities at Full Circle 2017, Arts Access' yearly arts event. This is a priceless opportunity for these talented individuals to shine, as they present their writing, dance and dramatic work on stage, and exhibit their paintings and sculpture in a professional gallery."

See the complete listing of projects recommended for Challenge American Fast-Track grant support at www.arts.gov.

About Matheny Medical and Educational Center

Matheny is a special hospital and educational facility for children and adults with medically complex physical and developmental disabilities. Matheny's Arts Access program empowers individuals with disabilities to create art without boundaries. Through the use of innovative systems and techniques, participants can take part in the visual, performing and literary arts. Regardless of their disability, the artists are provided with the tools and materials need to produce complete pieces of work.

Accredited by the Joint Commission, CARF, and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, A Clinical Affiliate of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

65 Highland Avenue, PO Box 339, Peapack, NJ 07977 • (908) 234-0011

www.matheny.org