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ARTS MIDWEST TO DISTRIBUTE OVER \$700,000 IN CARES ACT FUNDING

PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE ARTS AGENCIES WILL EXPEDITE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF FUNDS TO MIDWEST CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Arts Midwest announced that it is partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts and its nine member state arts agencies to distribute more than \$700,000 in funding from the CARES Act to support Midwestern arts and cultural organizations and their employees during the current disruption of business due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arts Midwest is working with the state arts agencies in its nine-state region to distribute CARES Act funds as quickly and as equitably as possible across the Midwest. One important feature of the plan is that it reduces application and reporting burdens by enabling organizations to access all funding available to them through a single application and award process administered by their state.

"Now more than ever the creative sector plays a critical role in our nation's recovery and resilience," shares Torrie Allen, President & CEO of Arts Midwest. "Arts and culture are essential to our collective wellbeing, our connections with one another, and how we will recover from this unprecedented challenge. We are honored to partner with our colleagues at the federal and state level to play a role in preserving these important jobs and helping arts and cultural organizations persevere."

Arts organizations can contact their state arts agency for more information on how this CARES Act funding is being distributed.

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Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 30 years. For more information, visit artsmidwest.org.