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NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES \$150,000 IN PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR ITS DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Ford Foundation, the Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund have provided funding to promote diversity among New York City's cultural community.

New York – June 13, 2015 – The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs announced that it has received \$150,000 from foundations to support the initiative launched earlier this year to promote diversity among the staffs, boards, and audiences of the city's cultural organizations. The most recent award of \$100,000 comes from the Ford Foundation to support the implementation and roll out of the initiative after the agency's formal survey is completed later this year. Mertz-Gilmore Foundation and Rockefeller Brothers Fund each previously provided \$25,000 to fund the design of the survey. DCLA Commissioner Tom Finkelppearl announced the new funding during a keynote presentation on the topic of diversity with National Endowment of the Arts Chairman Jane Chu. They were speaking at the annual Americans for the Arts convention in Chicago.

“As our population continues to become ever more multicultural, getting a frank discussion started about the issue of diversity at cultural organizations is absolutely critical to the future of the sector and of the City,” said **Ford Foundation President Darren Walker**. “We view diversity as a strength and have been committed to finding new ways to cultivate this in a meaningful way to transform institutions, and we are proud to support this work with our colleagues in the City of New York.”

The survey is being designed by consulting firm Ithaka S+R and will capture data on the diversity at cultural organizations, taking into account a number of factors including age, race, ethnicity, disability, and gender. A number of surveys from groups including BoardSource and Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and the Association of Art Museum Directors have found that that people of color and women make up a much smaller portion of nonprofit leadership and staff than their share of the population as a whole. New York City is incredibly culturally diverse: only 33% of residents identify as white non-Hispanic and nearly 40% are foreign-born and residents under the age of 18 are the most diverse age cohort, pointing to a long term trend. Understanding how New York's cultural sector reflects these demographics will help the City's arts organizations position themselves to serve and engage an increasingly diverse city.

Once collected, the data from the survey will better indicate where cultural organizations succeed and where they struggle with the inclusion of underrepresented groups. Other major cities, including London, have launched programs to address the lack of diversity in their cultural sectors and DCLA will consider lessons learned from these efforts. New York's unparalleled diversity means that an effective effort supporting diversity is even more critical to a thriving cultural sector into the 21st century. This initiative builds on the de Blasio Administration's commitment to making New York City a more fair and equitable city for every New Yorker.

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