



# press release

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## **GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES OVER \$4 MILLION DOLLARS OF FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEW JERSEY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

(MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY) The Trustees of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation have announced their approval of \$4,130,000 in 2008 Arts grants. Ninety-two grants have been made to nonprofit museums and galleries, community arts organizations, and performing arts organizations in the disciplines of theater, dance, opera, and music, throughout the state of New Jersey. These grants also include a variety of organizations that provide services to New Jersey's arts community.

“The Dodge Foundation’s Trustees were deeply impressed by the myriad ways in which arts organizations are making a difference in their communities,” stated David Grant, the Foundation’s President and CEO. “The arts are an integral part of the revitalization of towns and cities across the state, and the impact of their programming and services benefits New Jersey residents of all ages — in urban neighborhoods and in rural hamlets from Sussex to Salem Counties.”

This year, the Dodge Foundation provided grants to arts organizations in nineteen of the state’s twenty-one counties. Two organizations received the Foundation’s largest arts grant amount of \$175,000: The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey (Madison) and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (Newark). Other grants of note include \$170,000 to The Newark Museum and George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick); \$100,000 to the Jersey City Museum, Montclair Art Museum and WheatonArts; \$95,000 to the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and New Jersey Performing Arts Center; \$80,000 to New Jersey Ballet, Nai Ni Chen and Carolyn Dorfman Dance Companies and \$75,000 each to Appel Farm Arts and Music

Center (Elmer), Aljira, A Contemporary Gallery (Newark) and New Jersey Network (to support the Emmy-Award winning program, “State of the Arts”).

Twenty-five organizations received increases in their Dodge grants, including the Princeton-based Opera New Jersey and the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (\$40,000 each), the Monmouth County and Princeton Arts Councils (\$35,000 and \$25,000) and Millville’s Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts (\$25,000).

Of the ninety-two announced grants, ten were new to the Arts docket this year including two dance companies: Nimbus Dance Works (Jersey City) and Lydia Johnson Dance (South Orange); two theatres, Mile Square Theatre (Hoboken) and Crossroads Theatre Company (New Brunswick); and two visual arts organizations: The George Segal Gallery at Montclair State University and the Monmouth Museum in Lincroft.

Three grants of \$5,000 each were made to organizations collaborating with New Jersey composers on new commissions: Pro Arte Chorale (Robert Cohen), Roosevelt Arts Project (Mark Zuckerman) and Harmonium Choral Society (Amanda Harberg).

In addition to the arts grants announced today, the Dodge Foundation provided dozens of grants to other arts organizations earlier this year in their previously-announced Education and Morris County grantmaking cycles which totaled over \$1.2 million, bringing the Foundation’s total support for the arts in New Jersey to \$5,348,000.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation was established in 1974 through the foresight and generosity of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge. The Foundation’s primary areas of giving are the Arts, Education, Environment, with special initiatives in its hometown of Morristown, New Jersey.

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*A complete listing of grant recipients, grant descriptions and amounts, contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses is attached as an Excel spreadsheet. Information can also be found at the Dodge Foundation’s website [www.grdodge.org](http://www.grdodge.org).*