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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Children's Museum of the East End (CMEE) announces funding award
from the National Endowment for the Arts to support community arts programming**

Bridgehampton, NY—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu has approved an Art Works award of \$15,000 to the Children's Museum of the East End (CMEE) in support of "Community Creates," a community education outreach program. Art Works awards support the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts.

"Community Creates" will provide underserved youth from eastern Long Island with the opportunity to learn skills in various mediums including painting, drawing, and ceramics. A series of art-making workshops led by local visual artists and museum staff educators will be offered at diverse array of social service organizations across the region to provide access to art-making activities for families who do not typically participate in arts programming.

"Communities like Riverside are in urgent need of the types of services that the Museum provides," said Siris Barrios, community liaison for Riverside Rediscovered, one of several organizations that will host the outreach program. "This is amazing for us. This grant allows programming for kids and families who don't usually have access to the arts."

"We are positively thrilled to receive this grant from the NEA to help with the launch of 'Community Creates,'" added Steve Long, the Museum's president. "These funds will directly benefit families living in the area by allowing us to further our mission to spark imagination and foster learning for all children of all backgrounds and abilities."

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. CMEE's grant was among more than \$82 million that was awarded nationwide to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016.

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use **#NEASpring16**. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov

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For more information about "Community Creates," please contact:

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About the Children's Museum of the East End (CMEE)

The Children's Museum of the East End is one of the most visited museums in Eastern Long Island, and welcomes over 65,000 visitors annually. The Museum opened in 2005 and offers over 7,000 square feet of interactive, hands-on exhibits, classrooms, and performance space. CMEE's mission is "to spark imagination and foster learning for children of all backgrounds and abilities and to build strong connections within the East End community by providing playful experiences." For more information, please visit www.cmee.org.