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THE WOODEN FLOOR RECEIVES NEA GRANT IN SUPPORT OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Santa Ana, Calif. (December 4, 2012) — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman announced today that The Wooden Floor is one of 153 not-for-profit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Challenge America Fast-Track grant. The Wooden Floor is recommended for a \$10,000 grant to support the commission of three new artistic works for the organization's 30th Annual Concert May 30-June 1, 2013, at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. The works will be co-created between The Wooden Floor's under-served students and three internationally recognized contemporary dance choreographers, Ivy Baldwin, Mark Haim, and the organization's Artistic Director Melanie Ríos Glaser.

"We believe the dance-making process is a transformational vehicle that gives our students the confidence, perseverance and passion to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential. This grant helps to reiterate through our Annual Concert that our students have a strong voice in our organization's artistic process, and that their ideas and thoughts are valued," states Dawn S. Reese, The Wooden Floor's Executive Director and Co-CEO.

In this FY 2013 funding round, the NEA received 393 eligible Challenge America Fast-Track applications, requesting a total of \$3,930,000. The NEA will award 153 Challenge America Fast-Track grants totaling \$1.53 million awarded to organizations in 41 states, Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These include 49 first-time Arts Endowment grantees. The Challenge America Fast-Track 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.

"The NEA was founded on the principle that the arts belong to all the people of the United States," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "We're proud that Challenge America Fast-Track grants bring more opportunities for arts engagement to underserved communities." See the complete listing of projects recommended for Challenge America Fast-Track grant support at www.arts.gov.

About The Wooden Floor

The Wooden Floor is an arts-based youth development nonprofit that annually provides 375 low-income children with free long-term dance, academic, and family support services. Since 2005, 100 percent of the young artists who graduate from The Wooden Floor finish high school on time and go on to pursue higher education - a rate three times the average for their socioeconomic peers. Visit www.TheWoodenFloor.org to learn more.

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