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The International Sculpture Center receives National Endowment for the Arts grant to support the Connecting Artists and Audiences Initiative

Grant for \$25,000 Will Support ISConnects Lecture Series, Sculpture On-Line, and the ISC Blog

(Hamilton, NJ) The International Sculpture Center (ISC) is pleased to announce that it has been recommended to receive a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the ISC's Connecting Artists and Audiences Initiative. This initiative educates and inspires artists, arts professionals and enthusiasts through in-person and online programming including the *ISConnects* lecture series, *Sculpture On-Line*, and the ISC Blog.

ISConnects lectures, held at cultural venues and arts institutions across the United States, are low- to no-cost events that offer education and networking opportunities and feature renowned artists and arts professionals as panelists and speakers. Another educational outreach initiative, the ISC Blog (blog.sculpture.org), features up-to-the minute reviews on both emerging and established artists and sculpture exhibitions worldwide, with global contributors writing in several languages. Finally, the ISC website offers *Sculpture On-line* articles and other online content to complement the print version of the award-winning *Sculpture* magazine.

"I am pleased that the National Endowment for the Arts recognizes the value of the Connecting Artists and Audiences Initiative and continues to invest in our programming," said Johannah Hutchison, ISC Executive Director. "Funding will support events and online resources that educate and connect artists, arts professionals, and new and existing audiences from a variety of geographic and cultural backgrounds across the United States."

Acting NEA Chairman Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the United States. Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement, or innovation, these projects all contribute to vibrant communities and memorable opportunities for the public to engage with the arts."

The ISC was one of 817 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. In August 2012, ISC's proposal was among 1,547 eligible applications for NEA Art Works grants requesting more than \$80 million in funding. Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

The International Sculpture Center (ISC) is a member-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1960 to champion the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. Members include sculptors, collectors, patrons, architects, developers, journalists, curators, historians, critics, educators, foundries, galleries, and museums—anyone with an interest in and commitment to the field of sculpture.

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