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11th Street Bridge Park and the Anacostia Watershed Society Receive National Endowment for the Arts Grants

Washington, D.C. (May 18, 2016) – The 11th Street Bridge Park and the Anacostia Watershed Society are thrilled to announce that both organizations have received National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants. The 11th Street Bridge Park received a \$40,000 grant and the Anacostia Watershed Society received a \$25,000 grant from the NEA. This funding will support continued design work for the 11th Street Bridge Park's cultural, environmental and urban agriculture spaces. Both organizations will collaborate with the park's selected design team — architecture firm OMA and landscape architecture firm OLIN.

A key goal of the 11th Street Bridge Park's is to re-engage residents with the Anacostia River which is closely aligned with the Anacostia Watershed Society's mission to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores and honoring the region's heritage. Together the organizations have collaborated with designers on unique community-driven programming for the future park including an Environmental Education Center and floating docks. "Bringing people down to the river's banks is the best way to inspire the next generation of river stewards," said Scott Kratz, Director of the 11th Street Bridge Park. "We are excited to continue refining the park's design with the experienced staff of the Anacostia Watershed Society to ensure this new civic space can become a destination for environmental education."

The environmental and urban agriculture spaces will serve as an indoor/outdoor center to learn about watersheds, ecology and the importance of clean water. The center's programming is intended to offer safe recreational activities that develop people's connection to the river and promote positive stewardship behavior that can lead to improvement in the river's water quality. Additionally, cultural spaces including the outdoor amphitheater will be integrated with public art throughout the civic space. "The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Supporting projects like the 11th Street Bridge Park offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

This partnership builds on the Anacostia Watershed Society's multi-year collaborative relationship with the 11th Street Bridge Park. The Anacostia Watershed Society served on the Bridge Park's Design Oversight Committee as part of its nation-wide design competition and has been a key

partner in the annual Anacostia River Festival, helping to coordinate a temporary floating dock on the river to get hundreds of residents out on the water. “Each year we work with thousands of students and adults to create the next generation of stewards for the Anacostia River, said Ariel Trahan, Director of Education at the Anacostia Watershed Society. “The 11th Street Bridge Park will be a game changer, providing a focal point for education and recreation that can change peoples’ lives and protect the river.” Art Works funding is essential in engaging community stakeholders and the Design Oversight Committee as the project moves to its next phase.

About the 11th Street Bridge Park

The 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of Ward 8 based non-profit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC will be Washington, D.C.’s first elevated public park located on the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River: a new venue for healthy recreation; environmental education and the arts. After a seven-month design competition, the design team of OMA+OLIN was selected in October 2014. With the ongoing capital campaign securing more than \$10 million to date, Bridge Park draws on extensive community outreach and consultative process, anchored by more than 700 stakeholder meetings for design development and impact. For more information visit www.bridgepark.org

About the Anacostia Watershed Society

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts and the agency is celebrating this milestone with events and activities through September 2016. Go to arts.gov/50th to enjoy art stories from around the nation, peruse Facts & Figures, and check out the anniversary timeline.

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