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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING
FROM JANE'S TRUST TO SUPPORT PUBLIC ART**

(BOSTON) New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) announced today that it has received a two- year \$200,000 award from Jane's Trust. The funding will support the establishment of a New England public art network to coalesce assets, address needs, and pursue opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the region's public art practitioners, select community groups, and funders. NEFA will build on the models of its existing public art programs---Fund for the Arts (FFA) and Art and Community Landscapes (ACL)---supporting public art projects to address environmental issues with an emphasis on rural and underserved communities in northern New England.

Said NEFA Executive Director Rebecca Blunk, "This commitment from Jane's Trust validates our past work in the public art realm, and allows us to strengthen our programs in a strategic and meaningful way. Public art has such broad reach, inspiring and building communities - we can't wait to embark on this new phase."

In 2006, NEFA's public art programs were reviewed as part of a strategic planning process that included both an assessment of NEFA's current public art programs and a scan of the field to determine the aims, structures, and strategies of several other exemplary public art programs across the country. The process found that NEFA serves as a meeting place for arts professionals and leaders who look to it for information, ideas, innovation, and leadership. Researchers concluded that NEFA is the only regional agency with the ability to assess, connect, support, and leverage the wide array of cultural resources in New England.

This support from Jane's Trust will enable NEFA to hire a full-time manager of its public art programs and host a series of meetings that bring together artists/public art practitioners, community partners, and the six New England state arts agencies. The purpose of these meetings will be to share findings and recommendations from NEFA's public art planning process with funders, artists, and community leaders. NEFA will also use the meetings to gather information on the public art "industry" in New England, while evaluating collective assets, needs, and opportunities for potential collaboration. The goal is to build a communication network and resources that help artists create mutually beneficial relationships with one another and with organizations across sectors, such as community development, environmental sustainability, public health, and other fields.

Jane's Trust

Jane's Trust was created through the beneficence of Jane B. Cook, who died in 2002. The Trust honors her legacy by supporting organizations and projects that primarily benefit underserved populations and disadvantaged communities. Jane's Trust makes grants in Massachusetts, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in the areas of arts and culture, education, environment and health and welfare.

New England Foundation for the Arts

NEFA creatively supports the movement of people, ideas, and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, makes vital connections between artists and audiences, and builds the strength, knowledge, and leadership of the creative sector. NEFA is a 501c3 that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information please visit www.nefa.org or call 617.951.0010.

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