



Non-profit CEC ArtsLink receives prestigious grant from The Rockefeller Foundation for its pioneering project One Big City

NEW YORK, August 11, 2011 - New York-based arts non-profit CEC ArtsLink is proud to announce that its pioneering project **One Big City** has received a \$75,000 grant from [The Rockefeller Foundation's NYC Cultural Innovation Fund](#). CEC ArtsLink created One Big City, the first city-wide effort of its kind, to engage New York City's diasporic communities through the collaborative perspectives of artists from NYC and the countries whose émigré populations contribute to NYC's unique makeup.

One Big City will provide a platform for artists to explore cultural and artistic identities and will heighten awareness of diverse cultural communities throughout New York City. It will enable CEC ArtsLink to bring the cross-cultural discourse it has been fostering for nearly fifty years to a new level by engaging directly with communities throughout the five boroughs.

"CEC ArtsLink is singularly suited to the complex and necessary task it set out to accomplish here in New York City – to bring the flourishing cultural lives of many of the City's diaspora communities into the larger and more visible cultural sphere," says Edwin Torres, Associate Director for New York City Opportunities Fund and Innovation at the Rockefeller Foundation. "With such a broad network among international artists, an excellent roster of partner organizations, and dedication to the excellence in artistic exchanges, we look forward to the cultural insights this project will bring to New Yorkers".

Four dynamic New York City cultural organizations have enthusiastically committed to serving as venues and outreach partners for the program: BRIC Arts Media in Brooklyn, The Kitchen in Manhattan, the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens and The Point Community Development Corporation in the Bronx – with a Staten Island partner to follow.

Over the course of two years beginning in Spring 2012, eight local artists in visual, media and performing arts will be paired with 8 artists from countries with substantial communities in NYC. Each overseas participant will travel to NYC for a three-week collaboration on an art project with a local artist. The results of their collaborations will be presented in a series of public programs at venues throughout the city.

CEC ArtsLink promotes international communication and understanding through collaborative, innovative arts projects for mutual benefit. We support and produce programs that encourage the exchange of visual and performing artists and cultural managers in the United States and 32 countries overseas.

[CEC ArtsLink](#) was founded in 1962 to enable citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union to accomplish what their governments would not do—open doors, share ideas and build mutual trust. Our lasting partnerships abroad enable us to build and broaden our international reach, as today's transformed and complex world makes citizen diplomacy more urgently necessary than ever.

The Rockefeller Foundation

[The Rockefeller Foundation's](#) mission to promote the well-being of people throughout the world has remained unchanged since its founding in 1913. Today, that mission is applied to an era of rapid globalization. Our vision is that this century will be one in which globalization's benefits are more widely shared and its challenges are more easily weathered. To realize this vision, the Foundation seeks to achieve two fundamental goals in our work. First, we seek to build resilience that enhances individual, community and institutional capacity to survive, adapt, and grow



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in the face of acute crises and chronic stresses. Second, we seek to promote growth with equity in which the poor and vulnerable have more access to opportunities that improve their lives. In order to achieve these goals, the Foundation constructs its work into time-bound initiatives that have defined objectives and strategies for impact. These initiatives address challenges that lie either within or at the intersections of five issue areas: basic survival safeguards, global health, environment and climate change, urbanization, and social and economic security.

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