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Longy Awarded \$20K by National Endowment for the Arts
NEA Supports Longy's Sistema Side by Side, Awards More Than \$82 Million for Arts Projects Nationwide

Cambridge, MA—National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of \$20,000 to Longy School of Music of Bard College for its Sistema Side by Side initiative, which pairs children from El Sistema-inspired youth orchestra programs across Massachusetts alongside students from the Longy Conservatory Orchestra for a series of intensive rehearsals and celebratory performances. The Art Works category supports the creation and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

"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 one from Longy offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

"Life-changing initiatives like Sistema Side by Side wouldn't exist without the generous support of both individual donors and sponsoring organizations like the NEA," said Longy President Karen Zorn. "We are grateful that others share our vision for the impact that this program can have in neighborhoods across Massachusetts and beyond."

Founded in 2013, Longy's Sistema Side by Side is inspired by El Sistema, the movement that utilizes music for social change that began in Venezuela in 1975 and has since spread around the globe. Utilizing mentorship and peer modeling under the guidance of experienced artist teachers, Sistema Side by Side provides both intensive music instruction as well as community-building experiences, bridging neighborhoods and cultures as all participants work together to achieve a common goal. Since its inception, each Sistema Side by Side series has culminated in a performance with high profile guest artists, including Gustavo Dudamel of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, opera star Frederica von Stade, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Boston Cello Quartet.

Learn more about Sistema Side by Side [here](#).

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use **#NEASpring16**. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov.

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