

National Endowment for the Arts Recognizes Trenton's Passage Theatre
One of only 66 "Our Town" arts-based community development projects selected nationwide



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced today that Trenton's Passage Theatre Company is recommended to receive a \$50,000 grant in the highly-competitive "Our Town" funding category. The "Our Town" grants represent the NEA's investment in local efforts to leverage arts assets to drive community development.

"Passage Theatre Company demonstrates the best in creative community development and whose work will have a valuable impact on its community," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Through Our Town funding, arts organizations continue to spark vitality that support neighborhoods and public spaces, enhancing a sense of place for residents and visitors alike."

This year's Our Town projects demonstrate again that excellent art is as fundamental to a community's success as land-use, transportation, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety, helping build stronger communities that are diverse in geography and character.

In congratulating [Passage Theater](#), [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#) Executive Director Nick Paleologos said, "The State Arts Council is thrilled to see our longtime grantee, Passage Theater, recognized for their outstanding work by the National Endowment for the Arts. Passage is one of Trenton's most important arts organizations and a key contributor to the revitalization of our capital city."

Our Town funds arts -based community development projects in a way that is authentic, equitable, and augments existing local assets. Since Our Town's inception in 2011 and including these projects, the NEA will have awarded 256 Our Town grants totaling more than \$21 million in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The NEA received 275 applications for Our Town this year and put forward 66 grants totaling \$5.073 million, reaching 38 states. See the [complete listing of projects](#) recommended for Our Town grant support and read the [NEA's press release](#).

Image caption: The cast of the Passage Theatre Production of TRENTON LIGHTS; a play about Trenton based on interviews with Trenton residents. Created by Artistic Director June Ballinger and Resident Playwright David Lee White. Directed by Resident Director Adam Immerwahr." From L to R, Ross Beschler, Kala Moses Baxter, June Ballinger, Devon Jordan.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts is a division of the NJ Department of State. It receives funding in direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1966, its volunteer members and professional staff have worked to improve the quality of life in New Jersey by helping the arts to flourish. To learn more about the Council please visit www.artscouncil.nj.gov. For more information about what's happening in the arts statewide, visit www.jerseyarts.com