

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

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National Endowment for the Arts announces grant to Pacific Northwest Ballet

\$58,000 will support DISCOVER DANCE program

May 17, 2011 - SEATTLE, WA – Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, today announced that Pacific Northwest Ballet has been recommended for a grant of \$58,000 to support DISCOVER DANCE, PNB's education program offering long-term in-school residencies with Seattle-area schools. PNB is one of 1,145 not-for-profit national, regional, state, and local organizations recommended for a grant as part of the federal agency's second round of fiscal year 2011 grants. In total, the Arts Endowment will distribute more than \$88 million to support projects nationwide.

The National Endowment for the Arts advances artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, "NEA research shows that three out of four Americans participate in the arts. The diverse, innovative, and exceptional projects funded in this round will ensure that Americans around the country continue to have the opportunity to experience and participate in the arts."

Pacific Northwest Ballet's award will support partnerships with 30 classrooms in ten area schools, culminating in two public performances at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. "PNB is thrilled to receive this award from the NEA," said Kayti Bouljon, manager of PNB's community education programs. "The NEA's support is key to the sustainability of our DISCOVER DANCE partnerships. We're excited to start work on the 2011-2012 school year!"

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

Part of Pacific Northwest Ballet's Community & Education Programs, the innovative **DISCOVER DANCE** program was launched in 1998, and added a performance component two years later. The program serves a vital need by bringing standards-based dance education programs to Seattle and Eastside schools that might not otherwise have such opportunities. DISCOVER DANCE gives nearly 800 students, in 1st thru 8th grades, the opportunity to work with PNB Teaching Artists, over three- to five-month residencies, to create original choreographic works specifically designed to be

integrated into their academic curriculum. The students then perform their works onstage at McCaw Hall, alongside repertory excerpts performed by PNB Company dancers. Students in DISCOVER DANCE classes also get a behind-the-scenes look at a professional ballet company, including field trips to rehearsal studios, production offices and the costume shop. As PNB's largest Community Education program, DISCOVER DANCE gives students a unique and comprehensive learning experience. PNB's Teaching Artists guide students to think of themselves as artists. The end result is not only dance education, but also fostering confidence, creativity, trust, and camaraderie among students. In 2009 the program received its first Learning in the Arts grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to increase PNB's educational programming capacity in Seattle Public Schools via additional long-term, in-school residencies. For more information, visit **pnb.org/community**.

PNB thanks the National Endowment for the Arts for this award, as well as the other generous sponsors of DISCOVER DANCE, including Ameriprise Financial, Bellevue Arts Commission, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Lockwood Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, D.V. and Ida J. McEachern Charitable Trust, MetLife Foundation, PONCHO, Puget Sound Energy Foundation, Safeco Insurance Foundation, Washington State Arts Commission, and Peg & Rick Young Foundation.

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