

DATE: Thursday, 1/27/2022

CONTACT: Mary Finch, Executive Director, Cantare

mary@cantareconvivo.org, (415) 218-5183

www.cantareconvivo.org

Cantare to Receive \$100,000 NEA Grant

National Endowment for the Arts Awards as part of the American Rescue Plan

Oakland—Cantare, an Oakland-based, non-profit community choral organization, is pleased to announce they have been awarded an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. Cantare is approved to receive \$100,000 over two years. They may use this grant to fund operations and facilities, purchase health and safety supplies, and engage in marketing and promotional efforts to encourage attendance and participation.

“Our nation’s arts sector has been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Endowment for the Arts’ American Rescue Plan funding will help arts organizations, such as Cantare, rebuild and reopen,” said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the NEA. “The arts are crucial in helping America’s communities heal, unite, and inspire, as well as essential to our nation’s economic recovery.”

Artistic Director David Morales says, “It is empowering to have the NEA deem us an asset in this very broad national artistic field. It validates what we do, coupled with our solid track record of achieving these noble goals.”

This NEA award will support Cantare’s program directors and teaching artists, responsible for over 70 classroom lessons and after-school choir rehearsals a week at Cleveland, Franklin, La Escuelita, Laurel, Lincoln, Melrose Leadership Academy and Piedmont Avenue Elementary Schools. All school programs are tuition-free, as is Nova, Cantare's community choir for 6th-12th graders. Twice a year, Nova and other youth singers perform in concert with Cantare's auditioned, adult 100-voice Chorale and 25-voice Chamber Ensemble. This year, Cantare celebrates the 35th anniversary of the Chorale and 22nd year serving schools in the Oakland Unified School District.

“This is a testament to the work of Cantare and speaks to the consistent and sustained presence we have in the East Bay and in Oakland schools,” says Executive Director Mary Finch. “We are filled with gratitude and thank the NEA for their support and the opportunities this grant will provide.”

Board President Graham Seel adds, “This is a national endorsement of the importance and impact of Cantare's mission to bring equity, value and compassion to our communities through the power of choral music”.

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law in March 2021 when the NEA was provided \$135 million for the arts sector. The funding for organizations is the third installment, providing more than \$57.7 million to 567 arts organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC.

For more information on the NEA's American Rescue Plan grants, including the full list of arts organizations funded in this announcement, visit www.arts.gov/COVID-19/the-american-rescue-plan.