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MetLife Foundation

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MetLife Foundation and National Guild Award \$90,000 in Grants to Nine Creative Aging Programs

Arts education program to improve well-being of older adults

New York, NY---MetLife Foundation and the National Guild for Community Arts Education have announced the grant recipients of the [2012 MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Program](#). Technical assistance and grants totaling more than \$90,000 have been awarded to nine nonprofit arts education organizations that will deepen and expand professionally-led arts education programs for older adults. Each of the grantees has demonstrated the capacity to develop programs that can increase participants' social engagement as well as mastery of one or more art forms.

Grants were awarded to the following National Guild member organizations:

- [Artists Collective](#), Hartford, CT (*Music & Storytelling*)
- [Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music](#), Brooklyn, NY (*Music*)*
- [Community Music Center](#), San Francisco, CA (*Music*)*
- [Creative Center at University Settlement](#), New York, NY (*Theater & Visual Arts*)
- [Elders Share the Arts](#), Brooklyn, NY (*Visual Arts & Writing*)*
- [Encore Creativity for Older Adults](#), Washington, DC (*Music*)
- [MacPhail Center for Music](#), Minneapolis, MN (*Music*)
- [Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute](#), Clearwater, FL (*Music & Writing*)*
- [McGroarty Arts Center](#), Tujunga, CA (*Visual Arts*)

*Returning grantees

[Click here for a description of each program.](#)

The National Endowment for the Arts' [Creativity and Aging Study](#) shows that professionally-led arts education programs can have extremely positive effects on the general and mental health of older adults. Older adults who participated in programs supported by the MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Program in 2009 experienced a statistically significant improvement in their moods, reinforcing the findings in the National Endowment for the Arts study. A [report](#) (PDF) detailing the results of the Creative Aging Program is available online.

"MetLife Foundation is committed to making quality arts programs accessible to people of all ages," stated **Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation**. "As we embark on our fourth year of supporting and expanding the Creative Aging Program, we are pleased with its success and positive impact on the lives of older Americans."

"Through the MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Program, we will continue to enhance our members' capacity to develop, evaluate and sustain successful creative aging programs, and share what they learn with the field," said **Jonathan Herman, executive director of the National Guild**.

Grantees will offer at least twenty-five older adults (age 55+) with the opportunity to participate in a minimum of twenty-four 60-minute sessions of sequential, participatory skill-based arts instruction between January 1 and December 21, 2012. All applicants are eligible to participate in training and technical assistance.

The goals of the Creative Aging Program are to:

1. increase the capacity of nonprofit community arts education providers to serve older adults;
2. expand and/or deepen existing creative aging programs of high quality; and
3. identify exemplary creative aging programs as models for the field.

The Creative Aging Program was initiated in 2009 by MetLife Foundation and the National Guild in response to the rapid population growth of Americans aged 60+, as well as the research demonstrating the health benefits generated by professionally-led, participatory arts programs for older adults. The program is part of the National Guild's multi-year Creative Aging Initiative, which, in partnership with the National Center for Creative Aging and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, published *Creativity Matters: The Arts and Aging Toolkit* in English and Spanish (www.artsandaging.org) and which also produces training institutes for community arts education leaders. For more information on the Guild's Creative Aging Initiative, visit www.nationalguild.org/programs/creativeaging.htm, or call (212) 268-3337 ext. 18.

The National Guild for Community Arts Education supports and advances access to lifelong learning opportunities in the arts. We foster the creation and development of community arts education organizations and programs by providing research and information resources, professional development and networking opportunities, advocacy, funding, and high-profile leadership. Our more than 450 members, located in 45 states, include community schools of the arts; arts centers; and arts education divisions of performing arts institutions, universities, museums, and other organizations. Collectively, Guild members serve more than 1.2 million students, employ 16,000 teaching artists, and reach an additional six million Americans each year through performances and exhibitions in rural, suburban and urban communities across the nation. In addition to providing classes and lessons within their own facilities, most members also collaborate with senior centers, hospitals, public schools, and other agencies to increase communities' access to arts education.

www.nationalguild.org

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to carry on MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide. Through programs focusing on empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities, MetLife Foundation increases access and opportunities for people of all ages. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has made more than \$500 million in grants and \$75 million in program related investments. www.metlife.org