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July 22, 2013

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### **NCCAS convenes national Artist Advisory Council**

The National Coalition for Core Art Standards has been awarded a \$30,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to support the convening of a national Artist Advisory Council at an NCCAS writers and leadership meeting in Reston, Virginia, August 1-5, 2013. A group of nationally recognized artist advisors will meet with the dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts writing teams and NCCAS leadership to offer feedback and guidance to the respective arts groups about their work on the new arts standards.

Members of the Artist Advisory Council include:

**Choreographer and dancer Kwame Shaka Opare.** Opare has been the founding artistic director of Dishibem Traditional Contemporary Dance Group since 2003. He is an arts integration specialist, teaching artist, and a recipient of the Katherine Dunham Award for Best New Choreography.

**Digital artist Laurence Gartel.** Gartel is a globally acknowledged pioneer of the Digital Art movement, and considered the father of the Paintbox era of painting and photo manipulation. His work has been exhibited at, among others, the Museum of Modern Art, Joan Whitney Payson Museum, Long Beach Museum of Art, and in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History and the Bibliotheque Nationale.

**Opera singer Nancy Gustafson.** Gustafson, currently the general manager of the world-famous Castleton Festival in Virginia, has been acclaimed in leading opera houses throughout the world, including the Vienna State Opera, Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Teatro alla Scala, the Opéra National, Paris, Chicago Lyric Opera, the Bavarian State Opera, and many others.

**Playwright, screenwriter, and producer Jim Leonard, Jr.** Leonard was a member of New York City's Circle Repertory Theatre for twenty years and has been awarded three NEA Fellowships and a Dramatist Guild Award. He is currently a writer-producer for *Major Crimes* on the TNT network.

**Artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith.** Smith, born at the Indian Mission on her reservation, is an enrolled Salish member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, Montana and one of the most acclaimed American Indian artists working today. She has completed several collaborative public art works such as the floor design in the Great Hall of the new Denver Airport; an in-situ sculpture piece in Yerba Buena Park, San Francisco and a mile-long sidewalk history trail in West Seattle.

NCCAS, a coalition of eight national arts and education organizations and media arts representatives, is writing the new, voluntary arts standards in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts scheduled for release in 2014. During the August gathering, the writing teams will

meet to review the feedback of the recently completed public review of the PreK-8 draft standards, and continue work on the high school standards and other aspects of the work. High school drafts will be ready for internal review in September, followed by a public review of the complete PreK-12 standards which will begin in January, 2014.

The public is invited to a town hall style meeting and streaming live “chat” in early September that will include an update on the work and a summary of the data collected during the recent public review. To join the September meeting or learn more about the new, voluntary arts standards, or to review video archives of previous presentations, please visit the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards website at <http://nccas.wikispaces.com>.