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**House of SpeakEasy to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the
National Endowment for the Arts to Support Creative Arts Toolkits**

NEW YORK – House of SpeakEasy Foundation has been awarded a \$10,000 Arts Project Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The funds will support the development and distribution of a series of creative arts toolkits inspired by House of SpeakEasy’s “SpeakTogether” program: in-person matinees for NYC high school students featuring such writers as Jason Reynolds, Mira Jacob, and Mahogany L. Browne. This grant will help expand the reach of this initiative to schools across the country, fostering creativity and art-marking in the classroom and empowering students to tell their own stories.

House of SpeakEasy was selected as one of 1,125 projects, totaling more than \$26.6 million in award funding, during this most recent round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2022.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts and cultural organizations throughout the nation with these grants, including House of SpeakEasy providing opportunities for all of us to live artful lives,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “The arts contribute to our individual well-being, the well-being of our communities, and to our local economies. The arts are also crucial to helping us make sense of our circumstances from different perspectives as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for a shared new normal informed by our examined experience.”

“We are deeply grateful to the NEA for recognizing our efforts to reach young audiences and readers,” said Paul Morris, House of SpeakEasy Executive Director. “During the pandemic, we heard from educators about the learning loss experienced by students at a pivotal time in their high school education. These toolkits, designed by our Manager of Education & Equity, NK Iguh, serve to complement teachers’ existing curricula and provide access to the dynamic storytellers we spotlight in our program. Our hope is for thousands of students and teachers to now use them as a launchpad for their own creative explorations.”

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news). For more information about House of SpeakEasy's SpeakTogether program, visit <https://www.houseofspeakeasy.org/speaktogether/>

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About House of SpeakEasy Foundation:

House of SpeakEasy is a 501(c)(3) literary arts nonprofit dedicated to the idea that literature matters, and that the essence of literary culture is the relationship between writers and readers. To foster that relationship, SpeakEasy seeks to elevate authors and promote their books, ensure they are paid for their work, and to stimulate and inspire audiences and readers. On Stage. In Schools. On the Road.