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ArtsReady Receives Grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

New National Emergency Preparedness Tool, ArtsReady, receives \$225,000 grant

Atlanta, GA – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) has awarded ArtsReady, a national initiative of South Arts and new web-based emergency preparedness tool, a grant for \$225,000. ArtsReady is a response and recovery platform designed to help ensure post-crisis business continuity for arts organizations. In 2005, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, South Arts became active on a national level to promote emergency preparedness and business continuity planning for artists and arts organizations. With more than two years of research and development, ArtsReady was launched on September 15, 2011 at www.artsready.org.

ArtsReady encourages organizations to improve their own readiness and also to outline their commitments to support and assist peer organizations should they experience a crisis event. Artists and arts organizations are stewards of irreplaceable material culture and serve as homes for community memory and history. In addition to sustaining the cultural life of citizens, arts organizations support a community's economic vitality through tourism, employment, and by contributing to more desirable cities. Being ArtsReady is a means to protect our collective cultural assets and investments in creative economies. Keep your doors open. No matter what.

"Performing arts presenting and producing organizations have been a key constituent in the design of ArtsReady," said Gerri Combs, executive director, South Arts. "We have a strong investment in presenters in our region and know first-hand how valuable their programming and community connections are. ArtsReady can lessen their risk, whether from a guest artist's travel delays, an audience injury, or an IT failure. The commitment of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to make performing arts organizations more sustainable through ArtsReady is a significant step forward for the field."

Ben Cameron, Doris Duke Foundation Program Director for the Arts, spoke about the importance of supporting ArtsReady. Cameron stated, "In a time when arts organizations can be decimated by unforeseen emergency—whether from weather, economic collapse, executive transition or controversy—we are delighted to support ArtsReady, a comprehensive and savvy emergency preparation tool. We congratulate South Arts for this important work and look forward to a more informed, more prepared performing arts sector."

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In addition to the generous grant awarded to ArtsReady by the DDCF, ArtsReady receives funding from the following: Henry Morris Flagler Museum for \$3,000, the Mississippi Arts Commission for \$10,000, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (on behalf of the Louisiana Division of the Arts) for \$30,000, the North Carolina Arts Council for \$10,000, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for \$5,000, the South Carolina Arts Commission for \$5,000, the Alabama State Council for the Arts for \$10,000, and the Kentucky Arts Council for \$5,000. The ArtsReady tool was developed in partnership with Fractured Atlas.

About ArtsReady

ArtsReady is a web based emergency preparedness platform designed to provide arts organizations with customized business continuity plans for post crisis sustainability. A national initiative of South Arts, the ArtsReady readiness, response and recovery tool was developed with major support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit www.artsready.org.

About South Arts

South Arts, a nonprofit regional arts organization, was founded in 1975 to build on the South's unique heritage and enhance the public value of the arts. South Arts' work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective. South Arts offers an annual portfolio of activities designed to address the role of the arts in impacting the issues important to our region, and to link the South with the nation and the world through the arts. For more information, visit www.southarts.org.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child abuse, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

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