



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Cucalorus Receives Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Wilmington, NC, December 13, 2016* — Cucalorus is a proud recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works award for the fourth year in a row. The grant of \$20,000 will support the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Cucalorus Film Festival and Connect Conference, November 8-12, 2017 in downtown Wilmington, NC. Cucalorus is a multi-disciplinary arts organization supporting emerging and innovative creative professionals through our annual film festival, a residency program, a community cinema, and an extensive community engagement program. The five-day fest combines over 300 film screenings with workshops, performances, panels, and installations for a total of over 180 separate events.

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$30 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. The Art Works category focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Cucalorus is one of the few Southeastern organizations to receive funding.

"The arts are for all of us, and by supporting organizations such as Cucalorus, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer."

"NEA Funding allows Cucalorus to support the work of challenging and daring filmmakers from all over the US, to connect them with North Carolina audiences, and to showcase the City of Wilmington as a world class cultural destination. We're honored to be among an elite group of institutions that receive continued support from the most important arts funder in the country," says Cucalorus executive director Dan Brawley.

At Cucalorus 22 last month, 306 films from 16 countries were chosen from a record-breaking 1,941 submissions for the festival lineup, bringing an accumulated attendance of 17,874. For more information about Cucalorus, visit [cucalorus.org](http://cucalorus.org). For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

### **About Cucalorus:**

Cucalorus was founded in 1994 by the underground filmmaking collective Twinkle Doon. Today, Cucalorus is a multi-disciplinary organization supporting emerging and innovative creative professionals through an annual film festival, a residency program, a community cinema, a summer outdoor screening series, and an extensive community engagement program. The annual festival takes place every November, celebrating independent and international film for five days in historic downtown Wilmington, NC. MovieMaker Magazine has recognized it as "One of the Coolest Film Festivals in the World, 2015" for three years in a row. Cucalorus dove into the world of venture capital and entrepreneurship with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cucalorus Connect Conference. More than 250 films are screened and over 50 Connect events take place at venues all over downtown Wilmington, attracting a large number of participating artists (300+) and thousands of fans and industry professionals (accumulated attendance in 2016 was 17,874). Cucalorus is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies on funds from individuals, businesses, and grants to fund its annual celebration. For more information about Cucalorus visit [www.cucalorus.org](http://www.cucalorus.org).

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