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The People Concern Receives \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

The Funds Will Support the Organization's Studio 526, a Community Arts and Cultural Platform in LA's Skid Row Neighborhood

(LOS ANGELES - June 27, 2019) [The People Concern](#), one of the largest social services agencies in Los Angeles working to combat the homelessness crisis, announced today it has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the National Art Endowment's principal grantmaking program, [Art Works](#). The funds will be allocated to The People Concern's [Studio 526](#), an artistic space located in L.A.'s Skid Row open to everyone and with a focus on increasing accessibility to community arts spaces for people who are homeless or on extremely low-income poverty.

Studio 526 currently consists of painting, drawing and music studio sessions, complemented by workshops exploring other creative avenues from writing to photography as well as periodic art shows, collaborations and other participatory projects. The studio encourages long-term participation as artists develop their individual voices, display the artwork, inspire each other, build community together, and make creativity a continuous, restorative part of their lives.

"Art is known to improve self-esteem, relieve stress, symptoms of anxiety, depression and much more - all things our most vulnerable neighbors need," said John Maceri, executive director of The People Concern. "Witnessing the impact of offering our clients access to creative and artistic spaces makes grants like these vital to our success and mission to provide our clients with the wraparound services they need to rebuild their lives."

The People Concern is among hundreds of recipients granted a portion of the \$80 million in arts funding across the nation. Approved by the Arts Acting Chairman May Anne Carter, these grants were Art Endowment's second major funding announcement for the 2019 fiscal year and honor Art Endowment's commitment to promote equal access to the arts in every community across the U.S. The agency received 1,592 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking and will award 977 grants in this category alone.

"These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country," Carter said. "Organizations such as The People Concern are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create, and be inspired."

About The National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.

About The People Concern

One of Los Angeles County's largest social services agencies, The People Concern is working to end homelessness through its proven approach that focuses on housing first with wraparound services. The People Concern provides a fully integrated system of care – including outreach, housing services, mental and medical health care, substance abuse services, life skills, and wellness programs – tailored to the unique needs of homeless individuals and victims of domestic violence. Ninety-five percent of those in housing supported with wraparound retention services will never be homeless again. This innovative evidence-based model has been proven in communities throughout Los Angeles County and recognized and replicated across the country. For more information, visit www.thepeopleconcern.org.

About Studio 526

The People Concern's Studio 526 is community arts and cultural platform in Los Angeles' Skid Row neighborhood, rooted in the understanding that equitable access to

arts and cultural spaces is essential for all people and communities, and a fundamental human right. Studio 526 (formerly Lamp Arts Program, renamed in January 2018) builds on a legacy that stretches back to 1998, when Rory White founded Lamp Art Project as an internal fine arts program for “artists undeterred by mental illness.” Hayk Makhmuryan assumed leadership in 2008, and built on the core principle of a safe and nurturing studio environment, opening the program to everyone in the community in 2012, building on grassroots community members’ engagement, collaborations, guest artists and volunteers to become an important multi-disciplinary arts resource and outlet in the neighborhood. Studio 526 relies on private financial and art supplies donations and volunteers to keep its doors open. For more information, visit <https://www.thepeopleconcern.org/studio-526>.