

MetLife Foundation

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MetLife Foundation Announces \$1,000,000 in Grants for *Museum and Community Connections* Program

NEW YORK, November 17, 2008 - MetLife Foundation today announced the grant winners of its 2008 *Museum and Community Connections* program. The grants, totaling \$1,000,000, were awarded to 16 museums for exhibitions, artist residencies, and other programs that extend their reach into diverse communities and make art a part of people's lives.

"MetLife Foundation has a long history of partnering with museums to support educational opportunities for people of all ages," said Sibyl Jacobson, president and CEO, MetLife Foundation. "Museums enrich our lives in many ways, increase understanding of our world and reflect diverse cultural traditions. MetLife Foundation is pleased to make investments in projects that reach out to people in imaginative ways."

The goal of the competitive program is to broaden arts programming and promote museums as centers of education without boundaries. Winners were selected on the basis of their potential to engage diverse populations in the arts, creativity and innovation, and commitment to community.

Recipients are:

- Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, OH)
- Dallas Museum of Art (Dallas, TX)
- Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI)
- Des Moines Art Center (Des Moines, IA)
- Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art (Indianapolis, IN)
- Freeport Art Museum (Freeport, IL)
- Hunter Museum of American Art (Chattanooga, TN)
- Joslyn Art Museum (Omaha, NE)
- Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (Louisville, KY)
- Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee, WI)
- National Museum of Mexican Art (Chicago, IL)
- North Dakota Museum of Art (Grand Forks, ND)
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art (Oklahoma City, OK)
- Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN)

- Wiregrass Museum of Art (Dotham, AL)

About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was established by MetLife to continue the company's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants are made to support health, educational, civic and cultural organizations and programs. The Foundation contributes to arts and cultural organizations, with an emphasis on increasing opportunities for young people, reaching broad audiences through inclusive programming, and making arts more accessible for all people. For more information, please visit www.metlife.org.

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