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**NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMING CONSORTIUM WINS  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANTS**

**Awards will support the nonprofit's *AfroPoP* public television series and 360 Incubator and Fund**

**NEW YORK (May 12, 2016)**—National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), the Harlem-based national media arts organization bringing quality stories about the Black experience to the public airwaves and Internet, has won two National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works grants. NBPC will be awarded a total of \$85,000 for its signature public television series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* and 360 Incubator and Fund for serial broadcast and web series.

The NBPC grants are among \$82 million in funding approved by National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu for local arts projects and partnerships as a part of the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

"The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected," said Chu. "Supporting projects like the ones from NBPC offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day."

"For five consecutive years, the National Endowment for the Arts has helped us to produce the popular *AfroPoP* series and now they are supporting our 360 Incubator and Fund to help bring even more innovative stories to the fore," said NBPC Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz. "The NEA is continuing to demonstrate a commitment to inclusion in the arts that ensures Americans can enjoy the richest possible American arts experience."

*AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* is the nation's only public television series of documentaries on contemporary art, life and culture across the African Diaspora. The series, produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) and distributed by American Public Television (APT), has broadcast more than 42 documentaries over eight years, including *Pan! Our Music Odyssey*, *An African Election*, *Rise Up: Reggae Underground*, *Fighting Spirit*, *Calypso Rose*:

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*Lioness of the Jungle*, *Hip Hop Revolution*, *Doin' It In the Park: Pick-Up Basketball NYC* and *Boys of Summer*, among others. *AfroPoP* has also featured short web serial content. Hosts of the series have included Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Gabourey Sidibe, Wyatt Cenac, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta and Jussie Smollett. The NEA grant is for the ninth season of the series, expected to premiere in January 2017.

NBPC's 360 Incubator and Fund presents between \$50,000 and \$150,000 to producers and filmmakers to produce pilots for broadcast and web series as well as transmedia projects. Now in its sophomore year, the program aims to harvest and pipeline nonfiction, multipart (two to three parts) programs about the Black experience.

The inaugural year winners named in 2015 have begun to come to market. *My Africa Is* by Nosarieme Garrick and Hassatou Diallo, which shares untold stories from the African continent, aired this February as a part of *AfroPoP*. The scripted web series *Pixie Dust* by Damon Colquhoun, a sci-fi take on mental illness, and the documentary web series *POPS + Life* by Garland McLaurin, a humorous, enlightening exploration of Black fatherhood, will premiere online this summer and fall respectively. The final winner, reality show *Street Cred* by Sultan Sharrief and Oren Goldenberg, which features high school students competing for a dream internship in entertainment, is scheduled for completion in September.

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use #NEASpring16. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to [arts.gov](http://arts.gov). For more information on National Black Programming Consortium, visit [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org), or follow us on Twitter @BLKPublicMedia or on Facebook.

#### **ABOUT NBPC:**

The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. NBPC provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of Black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, NBPC produces the *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator and Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important Black serial and interactive content. NBPC is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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