



## FOURTH ANNUAL BUILDING BRIDGES FUNDING COMPETITION LAUNCHES

The Program Seeks Project Proposals That Respond to National Need for Arts and Culture Programming to Strengthen Intercultural Understanding Between Muslim and Non-Muslim Communities

**New York, NY, July 26, 2016** — The Building Bridges 2016-2017 Grants Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) launched today for the fourth consecutive year and is now open for applications. DDFIA, which is an extension of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, seeks proposals from U.S.-based nonprofits for arts and culture projects that aim to strengthen ties between Muslim and non-Muslim communities and build public understanding of the vast myriad of cultures with roots in Muslim-majority regions.



Children try their hand composing music on an interactive that highlights instruments from countries featured in the “America to Zanzibar: Cultures Near and Far” exhibit at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan, a recipient of the Building Bridges Program 2015-2016 Grants Competition. Photo credit: Children’s Museum of Manhattan.

With this fourth annual grants competition, the foundation continues to believe in the manifold benefits of meaningful relationships and dialogue between Muslim and non-Muslim populations across the United States. The arts offer a powerful channel for connecting people—serving to break down assumptions and social biases, and to foster mutual cooperation and respect. Organizations that share a commitment to this arts-based approach to helping American communities flourish are encouraged to apply.

“Today, more than ever before, we see a need for inspired ideas that help to ignite deeper relationships and unity,” said Zeyba Rahman, senior program officer for the Building Bridges Program. “We look forward to learning about transformative concepts from organizations that recognize the power of creative programs as a medium for bringing together Muslim and non-Muslim communities across America and for promoting greater societal well-being.”

Since 2013, the Building Bridges Program’s annual competition has awarded 23 U.S. nonprofit organizations with over \$4.7 million in grants to support planning and implementation of creative arts- and culture-based programs advancing relationships between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. This fourth round of funding builds upon the success of the past three cohorts of grantees, who have helped to enrich their communities and dispel misinformation about American Muslims and the Muslim diaspora.

### **About the Building Bridges Program**

The Building Bridges Program is the grant-making arm of the [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art](http://www.ddfia.org) (DDFIA), which is an extension of the [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](http://www.ddcf.org) (DDCF). Based in New York, the Building Bridges Program supports national efforts to advance relationships, increase understanding, and reduce bias between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. For more information, please visit [www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges](http://www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/building-bridges).

### **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 child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. For more information, please visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org).

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