

BEAD MUSEUM NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE BEAD MUSEUM AWARDED THREE CITY GRANTS

Washington, D.C – (June 15, 2005) The D.C Commission on the Arts and Humanities has awarded the Bead Society of Greater Washington (BSGW), the parent organization of The Bead Museum, three prestigious city grants: \$1000 through Folk Traditional Arts, a \$3,500 Grants-in-Aid, and a Small Projects Program award for \$1000. Both the BSGW and The Bead Museum are especially appreciative of these grants.

As a small, emerging cultural institution with only two full-time staff members and 24 volunteers, such funds are imperative to the Museum's goal to expand its overall impact beyond its Penn Quarter location. Museum Director Tania Said believes, "Without these three grants, The Bead Museum might not be able to take further steps toward becoming an accredited museum while meeting its central objective of promoting greater cultural understanding through the interpretation of beads."

The Folk and Traditional Arts Program grant will allow The Bead Museum to provide educational outreach in conjunction with the Museum's upcoming exhibition, "The Tiny Mighty Bead." This cross-cultural comparison of the history, function, and significance of very small glass beads will explore the creativity and inventiveness of people from around the world. Educational outreach will take place through "beading bee" kits for use by groups on-and-off site facilitated by Bead Museum volunteers. This program grant will also assist in the funding of a free family event at The Bead Museum on Saturday, September 17, 2005, in conjunction with the neighborhood's Arts on Foot festival.

Grants-in-Aid is a general operating support grant, which will be used to defray administrative expenses and realize The Bead Museum's visual identity program.

The Small Projects Program award was granted on behalf of the Museum's plan to implement a visual identity program. The program will focus primarily on revisions to the BSGW's logo and creation of the Museum's logo to be applied to all its printed and electronic materials, including signage to create a distinctive, yet cohesive appearance.

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About The BEAD MUSEUM—The Bead Museum, sponsored by the Bead Society of Greater Washington, is located at 400 Seventh Street, NW, in the cultural corridor of Penn Quarter near the National Archives, and two blocks from the MCI Center. The Archives/Navy Memorial/Penn Quarter Metro stop is one block south, and the Gallery Place/Chinatown/MCI Arena stop is two blocks north.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.– 4 p.m.; Sunday 1– 4 p.m; and every Third Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$3.00 per person.

Visit www.BeadMuseumDC.org for additional information.