

National Performance Network, Inc.

(New Orleans, LA)

Regional Meetings & Community Fund

Total Award: \$100,000 over 1 Year

To support the Regional Meetings and Community Fund, efforts to create regional collaborations and opportunities for shared learning that result in the development of socially relevant and risk-taking performing arts. The National Performance Network (NPN) is an artists-centered, field-generated network that addresses artistic isolation and economic constraints that affect the sharing of creative ideas within the performing arts community. NPN supports the national touring of performing artists and companies; convenes its partners who include artists, organizations and colleagues; promotes the exchange of diverse ideas through a variety of media; actively participates in shaping cultural policy for the field; and directly supports the development of new works. In 2004, NPN reconsidered its core work by using primary source materials documenting its values, histories and the methods of practitioners to facilitate interactive trainings, exchanges and discussions. They assembled a diverse group of advisors, writers, designers and illustrators to produce and publish instructional materials that include cultural organizing techniques, lesson plans, project designs, and essays that will be broadly disseminated. In 2005, NPN will increase support to artists and artists' companies that use methodologies that engage communities; convene NPN partners and affiliates at its national meeting to forge relationships that result in more effective and inclusive community arts practices; conduct four regional meetings that engage members in a planning and sharing process; model principles of strategic partnership that lead to the development of the next generation of arts leadership; support 5-7 community projects that focus on mentoring and leadership development for NPN partners; and enhance the NPN newsletter and website.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$100,000 Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategies 3 & 4*