



PRESS RELEASE

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Local Library Receives NEA Big Read Grant, Supporting Media Programming

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY - The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced Big Read grants totaling \$1 million that will be distributed to 79 communities across the country in 2018-2019. The NEA Big Read is a national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, which broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Poughkeepsie Public Library District will receive \$15,000 to coordinate the community-wide reading program this Fall.

“We are thrilled to once again receive an NEA grant for the Big Read,” says Library Director Tom Lawrence. “But this is really a grant to our entire community since our local Big Read would not be possible without the enthusiastic involvement of so many partner organizations.”

One of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District’s community partners for this Big Read is [The Art Effect](#), a non-profit organization focused on supporting personal growth, fostering self-expression, and enhancing human services through the arts to build a shared sense of community.

The Art Effect has a strong history of collaboration with the libraries of the Hudson Valley thanks to its [Mobile Media Lab](#) programming, media and arts workshops that reinforce digital and visual literacy while patrons engage in art and media-making. These two-hour, 10-15 person, contract workshops facilitated by a professional teaching artist are booked and paid for by the library and are free to the public. Sometimes for more intensive programming, libraries have booked two back to back for a 4 hour session, or scheduled multiple sessions over a series of weeks for longer projects.

With the help of the NEA Big Read grant, The Art Effect has 10 two-hour workshops available to book free of cost for libraries looking into offerings and activities for their patrons that can dovetail with the Big Read’s book selections.

Workshops can also be custom-made to suit a library's particular needs and specific requests. Interested libraries can reach out to The Art Effect for more information or to book a workshop by emailing Mary Ellen at maryellen@feelthearteffect.org.

A list of all of this year's Big Read recipients can be found at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

About The Art Effect: Formerly Mill Street Loft and Spark Media Project, The Art Effect is committed to being a catalyst for youth empowerment and community engagement through the arts and media across the Hudson Valley. From our youth employment programs, to our award-winning [Dutchess Arts Camps](#) and [The Art Institute](#), exhibitions, workshops, and performances, The Art Effect is dedicated to supporting personal growth, fostering self-expression, and enhancing human services through the arts to build a shared sense of community. Learn more at [feelthearteffect.org](https://www.feelthearteffect.org).