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Yes! And... Collaborative Arts to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Philadelphia, PA — Yes! And... Collaborative Arts (YACA) is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000. This grant will support the *Summer Sort of Thing* musical theatre program, an arts education program for youth and a free outdoor theatre event in the Germantown neighborhood. This grant is one of 262 Challenge America awards totaling \$2.62 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “Projects such as this one with Yes! And... Collaborative Arts strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy.”

“We are honored to have been selected to work with the NEA to enhance our *Summer Sort of Thing* program,” said Christine Herrman, Executive Director of YACA. “This program not only provides youth in Northwest Philadelphia with arts education programming, but it creates an accessible cultural experience for our neighbors here in Germantown.”

YACA’s *Summer Sort of Thing* program (SSOT) is a four-week summer program that provides the opportunity for youth to refine artistic skills by working with professional artists to rehearse and perform an original YACA musical theatre show. This program involves rehearsal and performance, but also design and backstage experience through collaborative work with professional artists. The culminating performance is offered to the community outdoors at no-cost and runs for three consecutive nights. The performance offers the opportunity for engagement with theatre arts outside of Center City, creating an accessible cultural event within the community.

This year’s *Summer Sort of Thing* program will run July 3rd through July 28th, with the performances on July 26th, 27th & 28th at 6:00pm. For more information about the program or production, visit www.yesandcamp.org.

About Yes! And... Collaborative Arts:

Yes! And.. Collaborative Arts (YACA) is a youth-centered organization dedicated to amplifying voices, nurturing agency, and creating community through performing arts experiences. We believe youth should have no barriers when discovering their unique perspectives because the future depends on compassionate, curious, and courageous leaders. We work with children and youth from across Philadelphia in the collaborative and imaginative arts through Summer Theatre Camps, Shadow Company high school leadership and arts training, the Winter and Summer Sort of Thing musical experiences, and more!

For more information on other projects included in the NEA’s grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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