



For Immediate Release
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2008 Lowell Folk Festival Receives Award from National Endowment for the Arts

With just seven months before the 22nd Lowell Folk Festival takes place July 25-27, 2008, the *National Endowment for the Arts* (NEA) has announced an award of \$25,000 to support this year's Festival. The award is made through NEA's "Access to Artistic Excellence and Learning in the Arts" program. The funds will support Festival programming, which brings local and national traditional performers and craft demonstrators to Lowell for the three-day downtown celebration. "This \$25,000 award from NEA comes at an excellent time and we appreciate the support toward the traditional performance programming that this brings to the Lowell Folk Festival as well as our efforts to sustain the Festival as a free event" commented Art Sutcliffe, chairman of the Lowell Festival Foundation.

Planning is underway for next summer's Festival by the five producing partners: the City of Lowell, Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lowell Festival Foundation, Lowell National Historical Park, and the National Council for the Traditional Arts. In searching for local representation in the Festival, recent fieldwork conducted by *Folklorists in New England* (FINE) has identified traditionally rooted groups from culturally diverse New England communities that have not previously performed or demonstrated at Lowell. This fieldwork expands the roster of acts that will be reviewed for booking the 2008 schedule.

More information about the Lowell Folk Festival is available online at www.lowellfolkfestival.org.