



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired Approved for \$30,000 Grant by the National Endowment for the Arts

The recommended funds will support the Miami Lighthouse Music Education Program’s innovative curriculum supporting blind and visually impaired participants around the world

MIAMI, FL – [Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (MLB), an organization providing hope, confidence, and independence to its program participants of all ages through education, training, research, and vision enhancement, has been approved for a \$30,000 Grants for Arts Projects award by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA). The recommended grant will support the Miami Lighthouse Music Education Program benefitting blind and visually impaired people starting at the age of 14-22 and older.

“We are honored to be approved by the National Endowment for the Arts for a grant that supports Miami Lighthouse’s venerable mission and dedication to the arts,” said Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. “The recommended award will aid our cutting-edge Music Education Program, empowering blind and visually impaired participants to develop new skills and pursue their musical dreams.”

A leader in music education and facilitation for the blind and visually impaired, MLB is the only organization in the nation to offer all-inclusive music, audio instruction, and youth development programs. The approved funds will support several innovative resources, including MLB’s one-of-a-kind online Braille music curriculum instructed by blind musician and Library of Congress-certified brailist in literature and arts, Jin Ho Choi. This is the only comprehensive braille music distance learning course that offers music instruction to blind and visually impaired students anywhere in the world.

The approved grant will also benefit MLB’s inclusive ‘Better Chance Music Program’ which fosters careers in performance, song writing and sound engineering along with enhanced self-efficacy and positive peer relations for all levels of ability.

“Projects like the Miami Lighthouse Music Education Program exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit.”

In total, the NEA will award 1,135 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$37 million as part of its second round of fiscal year 2024 grants. For more information on other projects included in the NEA’s grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

For more information about the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, please visit <https://www.miamilighthouse.org/>.

About the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

For nearly a century, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has been working to build a more inclusive society for the blind and visually impaired. Through education, training, research and vision enhancement, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind provides hope, confidence, and independence to people of all ages. Miami Lighthouse serves over 25,000 blind and visually impaired program participants from blind babies to seniors, each year. For more information, please visit <https://www.miamilighthouse.org/>.