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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National Endowment for the Arts
Awards Grant to We Tell Stories**

Los Angeles, CA - We Tell Stories has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for fiscal year, 2009-2010. The grant is part of NEA's **Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth** to advance arts education for children and youth in school-based or community-based settings.

WTS will provide an expanded version of its much acclaimed theatre/literacy residency at schools throughout Los Angeles. The grant will impact 2,100 elementary school children by improving skills in reading comprehension. Student self-esteem, imagination, and team-building skills will also be enhanced.

In the program, each school will receive 80 theatre/literacy workshops, culminating in student performances. At each school, teachers will receive professional development to continue work long after *We Tell Stories* has completed the residency. This program is particularly necessary because the district no longer funds arts education programs, such as this.

Over the past 28 years, *We Tell Stories* has performed nearly 16,000 shows and over 26,000 student workshops to close to 5,000,000 children, their families and their teachers. *We Tell Stories* is a vanguard in the field of arts education and theatre for young audiences. According to Lynne Heffley of the Los Angeles Times, *We Tell Stories* "is one of Southern California's oldest and most respected educational children's theater companies." WTS performs at schools, libraries, theatres, art centers, museums, festivals, and special events, reaching 150,000 children and families, annually.

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