FERGUSON LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE BIG READ

STAMFORD, June 29, 2017 – The Ferguson Library has received a grant of $14,000 to host the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read in Stamford. The Big Read will feature the award-winning novel, *Brother, I’m Dying* by Edwidge Danticat. An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. The Ferguson Library is one of 75 nonprofit organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between September 2017 and June 2018. Stamford’s Big Read will take place in October.

The project will involve other community partners, including UCONN Stamford. *Brother, I’m Dying* will be the incoming read for all UCONN freshmen this fall. Other program information will be announced soon.

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,400 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than $19 million in grants to organizations nationwide. Over the past eleven years, grantees have leveraged more than $42 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 4.8 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 79,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 37,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible.
The Ferguson Library is Stamford’s public library system, consisting of the Main Library, DiMattia Building; the Harry Bennett Branch; the Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch; the South End Branch and a traveling Bookmobile. It provides free and equal access to information, ideas, books and technology to educate and enrich the Stamford community. Visit fergusonlibrary.org for more information.

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.

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