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

STAMFORD, July 5, 2018 – The Ferguson Library has received a grant of $13,700 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support a community-wide reading and discussion of Kevin Young's book of poetry, *The Book of Hours*.

Kevin Young is the poetry editor for *The New Yorker* magazine and the director of New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. The Ferguson Library has arranged for him to come to Stamford as part of its Big Read program.

“We are delighted to receive this grant to participate in NEA’s Big Read,” said Alice Knapp, President of The Ferguson Library. “Community-wide reading brings people together from all walks of life to foster discussion and engagement, which are vital to strong communities.”

The NEA Big Read showcases a diverse range of contemporary titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program, managed by Arts Midwest, which annually supports dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection. The Ferguson Library is one of 79 nonprofit organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between September 2018 and June 2019. Stamford’s Big Read will take place in the spring of 2019. Project partners include UConn Stamford, Stamford High School and the Friends of The Ferguson Library.
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, engage 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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