



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(434) 946-7236

**NEA Grant Allows Virginia Center for the Creative Arts to Award
Month-Long Residencies to Writers Who Have Not Previously Been in Residence**

(AMHERST, VA)—A National Endowment for the Arts grant will provide those writers, who have not previously attended the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), the opportunity to receive fully funded, one-month residential fellowships to this leading international working retreat located in central Virginia. Application deadlines are September 15, 2008 for residencies between February and May 2009; January 15, 2009, for residencies between June and September 2009; and May 15, 2009 for residencies between October 2009 and January 2010.

Founded in 1971 and located in central Virginia, one hour south of Charlottesville, the VCCA is a leading international artist community, providing writers, visual artists and composers time and space for the creation of new work.

A year-round working retreat, the VCCA provides meals, rooms and studios to selected professional artists from around the world, hosting more than 300 individuals each year at its Mt. San Angelo estate adjacent to Sweet Briar College. VCCA Fellows include mature artists of noteworthy achievement and promising younger and mid-career artists. Fellows have received international attention through publications, exhibitions, compositions and performances, and have gone on to receive such major awards as the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, plus Academy Award nominations and Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts grants.

A non-profit organization founded in 1971 near Charlottesville, Va., the VCCA is supported in large part by grants and private donations. For more information about the VCCA, or to print an application, visit the VCCA website at www.vcca.com or 434-946-7236. To receive an application by mail, please send your request and a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: VCCA Admissions, 154 San Angelo Drive, Amherst, VA 24521.

(MORE)

The Heinz Endowments supports efforts to make southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to live and work, a center of learning and educational excellence, and a home to diversity and inclusion. Committed to helping its region thrive as a whole community—economically, ecologically, educationally and culturally—the foundation works within Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation to develop solutions to challenges that are national and even international in scope. One of the largest and most innovative independent philanthropic foundations in the country, the Endowments awarded over \$51 million in grants in 2003.