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**SCHRADER APPLAUDS \$10,000 GRANT FOR THE SITKA CENTER FOR ART AND ECOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**Washington, D.C.** -- Congressman Schrader (D-OR) today applauded a \$10,000 grant for the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology from the National Endowment of the Arts' (NEA) first major round of FY 2013 grants. These matching grants help support local projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work--both new and established.

"Providing critical funding for our local arts programs has tremendous impacts on not only our artists, but also the local communities they serve by offering an array of experiences through lectures, exhibits and research," Congressman Schrader said. "I appreciate the NEA recognizing the value that the Sitka Center offers Oregonians and hope that this grant will help to further the Center's mission of outreach and education."

"We are honored and grateful to receive this \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support residencies for art and ecology," said Jalene Case, Executive Director of the Sitka Center. "These funds will support the artists, writers, natural scientists and musicians who participate in our Residency Program."

Committed to expanding the relationships between art, nature and humanity, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is renowned for its workshop and residency programs. Exploration of the coastal environment has remained a key component to the Center's vitality. Located on Cascade Head, with views of the Pacific Ocean, Sitka offers a place where artists come to inspire, create and ultimately transform themselves.

Since 1981, more than 230 residents have experienced the transformational environment of Cascade Head and the Salmon River estuary. Up to six residents at a time, from different disciplines and stages in their careers, live and work on campus for up to three and a half months free of charge from October to May. All residents perform community outreach during their stay, offering free exhibits and lectures on campus, presentations to area schools or community groups and conducting scholarly research for local educational institutions.

To find out more about the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, please visit [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org) or call (541) 994-5485.