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UC Davis alumni, Liesel Fenner (LDA 1998) Receives National Park Service Award for Work on Public Art Program

(Boston, MA) Liesel Fenner, program manager for the New England Foundation for the Arts, received the National Park Service (NPS) Conservation Hero Award, Friday, July 16, in Washington, D.C., during the “Public Art: Civic Catalyst,” conference, cosponsored by the Americans for the Arts and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

Sam Stokes, Chief of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, presented the award to Fenner for her role in developing and coordinating the Art and Community Landscapes program. The program is administered by New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and made possible through a partnership between NPS, NEFA, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Liesel Fenner has put incredible energy, expertise and heart into Art and Community Landscapes,” said NPS Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust. “Thanks to Liesel and the New England Foundation for the Arts, our goal of integrating the work of artists with NPS staff in community projects has been a wonderful success. At every curve, crossroad, and bump along the trail she has been there—to encourage, to offer experience, and to lend a hand. On behalf of the National Park Service and our many community partners across the country, we extend to her sincerest thanks.”

Art & Community Landscapes is an artist residency program that addresses local and regional conservation concerns through site-specific public art projects that include temporary art installations, exhibitions, interpretive media, festivals, or other works.

Project sites are identified through the NPS RTCA Program. Once selected, each artist works as part of a team with the NPS, community partners, and local citizens to implement the site-specific project for up to one year. Artists are currently working with RTCA Program staff on community-based conservation projects in California, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

“We are proud that Liesel is receiving this national award for her vision and diligence” said Rebecca Blunk, executive director of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

“The Art & Community Landscapes program illustrates how essential artists can be in stimulating and fostering community-based conservation efforts. This recognition will help us articulate the program’s significance in order to extend its reach and impact.”

For more information about the Art & Community Landscapes program, visit NEFA’s website at <http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/acl/index.html>

The NPS RTCA Program works with local communities and citizens groups to preserve open space, conserve rivers, and develop trail and greenway networks. More information is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.