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Four leading arts organizations will explore technology, sustainability and new programs through the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts*

January 25, 2011— **Adventure Stage Chicago, the Apollo Theater Foundation, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and New Dramatists** have been selected to participate in Round 6 of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts*, an intensive training and immersion program that supports prototyping of innovations at nonprofit theater, dance, jazz and presenting organizations. Designed and managed by EmcArts, the *Innovation Lab* is funded by a generous \$1.6 million grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF).

Round 6 of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts* is the last currently funded. Information about future Rounds will be announced on EmcArts' website (www.EmcArts.org). Since launching in 2008, 23 leading arts and cultural organizations from across the country have taken part, or are still participating, in the Lab.

Round 6 Grantees – Project Descriptions

Founded in 1998, **Adventure Stage Chicago** is part of Northwestern Settlement (established in 1891), and located in the city's diverse West Town neighborhood. Aiming to connect more deeply with residents in the local community, Adventure Stage will use the Lab to explore how to engage its neighbors in the theater-making process, creating communally derived works. In working to create a "completely interactive" theater process, Adventure Stage will infuse arts into traditional Settlement programs and services, creating a holistic approach to community building.

Apollo Theater Foundation operates and leads programming for the famous Harlem NY theater, founded in 1934. For more than 75 years, Amateur Night has been the signature program of the Apollo Theater, debuting at a time when American theater was largely segregated by race, and fostering the careers of a Who's Who of celebrated African-American performers. The Apollo will work through the *Innovation Lab* to plan and develop an online component of the successful live series, working to translate the theater's programming into the digital age in a way that is firmly grounded in the legacy of the organization.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy and the nation's busiest performing arts facility—presenting the best performances of music, dance, and theater; supporting artists in the creation of new work; and serving the nation as a leader in arts education. Via the Lab, the Kennedy Center will develop a program uniting arts and technology to promote peace through music by bringing together artists from global conflict zones. Developed in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace, the program aims to strengthen the bonds of humanity among artists from regions in conflict through collective music making and peacebuilding education, engaging and inspiring local and American audiences, including diaspora communities, through interactive digital media and concert tours. The program will use modern-day, high-tech tools to further an age-old, low-tech human activity – people coming together to play music – thereby empowering musicians here and abroad as ambassadors of peace.

Founded in 1949, **New Dramatists** serves as one of the country's leading playwright centers and a nationally recognized new play laboratory. This service organization offers writers 7-year free residencies, workspace, access to a network of fellow playwrights, and dedicated support staff. New Dramatists' core program, The Playwrights Lab, is the focus of the *Innovation Lab* project. New Dramatists will assemble a team from all parts of the organization to re-envision the Playwrights Lab with the aim of re-configuring the program to accommodate the widest possible range of artistic processes.



Richard Evans, President of EmcArts, comments on the work to date of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts*:

“When the Lab was initiated in 2008, it was a unique and timely response to the rapid and unprecedented change being experienced in the operating environment for the arts. Over the last three years, it has proven its value to the arts field, and fostered the design and testing of significant innovations that otherwise would likely not have reached the public. As in earlier Rounds, the participants in Round 6 of the Lab are a widely varied group of leading organizations – demonstrating again that the Lab is of relevance to organizations of different sizes, types and backgrounds. We are grateful for the staunch support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and for the expertise of our many selection panelists, who have helped ensure the continuing development and vitality of the *Innovation Lab*.”

Selection for Rounds 1 - 6

Organizations are selected to participate in the *Innovation Lab* via a competitive national RFP process. EmcArts received more than 130 applications to the Lab for Rounds 1 – 6. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, 23 organizations were invited to take part the *Innovation Lab*. See below for a complete list of Lab participants.

In each Round, applications were reviewed and applicants selected by an expert panel, selected and convened by EmcArts. Panelists for Rounds 1 through 6 of the Lab were:

Jessica L. Andrews - Consultant and Former Executive Director, Arizona Repertory Theatre

Sara Billmann - Director of Marketing & Communications, University Musical Society at
University of Michigan

Brian Camelio - Founder and CEO, ArtistShare

Jean Cook - Director of Programs, Future of Music Coalition

Jean Davidson - Executive Director, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company

Jacqueline Z. Davis - Executive Director, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Susan S. Farr - Executive Director, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD

Stefon Harris – Jazz vibraphonist-composer

Adam Forest Huttler - Executive Director, Fractured Atlas

Marion Friedman Young – Managing Director, The Civilians

Bruce Johnson – Attorney, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Tom Kaiden - President, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

Ruby Lerner - President, Creative Capital

Charlie McDermott - Deputy Director, Massachusetts Cultural Council

Grady McGonagill – Principal at McGonagill Associates

Susie Medak - Managing Director, Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Kelly Lamb Pollock - Executive Director, COCA - Center of Creative Arts

Bill Rauch - Artistic Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Ann Rosenthal - Executive Director, MAPP International Productions

Geno Schnell - Founder, Schnell Management Consulting

Elizabeth Streb - Founder, STREB

Andrew Taylor - Director, Bolz Center for Arts Administration, University of Wisconsin

Megan Wanlass - Managing Director, SITI Company



About the Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts

Originally launched in 2008 with a DDCF grant of \$1.5 million, EmcArts' *Innovation Lab* helps teams from nonprofit theater, dance, jazz and presenting organizations design and prototype new ideas and launch real-life projects that address major challenges facing arts and cultural organizations. Participants take part in a 12-month immersion program featuring an extended framework of individual coaching and group facilitation, guided by field research and led by EmcArts' expert facilitators. Ultimately, the Lab gives arts organizations the time and space they need away from the regular workplace to plan, engage, participate and learn how to innovate effectively. Participating organizations also receive much-needed risk capital to underwrite experimentation.

To date, 23 organizations have participated in the *Innovation Lab*, representing a range of disciplines and launching a variety of innovative initiatives in community engagement, uses of technology, collaborative programming and strategic alliances/mergers, among others. Past and current participants by Round are:

MAPP International Productions (NY); Roadside Theater/Appalshop (KY); The Civilians (NY); STREB Lab for Action Mechanics (NY); HERE Arts Center (NY); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (CA); Children's Theatre Company (MN); Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OR); Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, with Dance Theater Workshop (NY); University Music Society, Ann Arbor (MI); Center of Creative Arts – COCA (MO); Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (MD); Denver Center Theatre Company (CO); Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.); The Wooster Group (NY); Dad's Garage Theatre Company (GA); The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT); The Pearl Theatre Company (NY); Springboard for the Arts (MN); Adventure Stage Chicago (IL); The Apollo Theater Foundation (NY); The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.); and New Dramatists (NY).

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About EmcArts

Recognized as the leading not-for-profit provider of innovation services to the arts sector nationwide, EmcArts (www.EmcArts.org) serves as an intermediary for arts funders, and as a re-granting agency and service organization for the arts field around innovation. Our innovation programs support the development and implementation of mission-centered new strategies by arts organizations of all sizes. The programs range from directly incubating specific innovation projects to introductory programs that enable new thinking and build a culture of innovation across local arts communities. EmcArts is a 501(c)(3) organization.

About DDCF

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research, and the prevention of child abuse, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.