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## **Four leading arts organizations selected for the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts***

October 8, 2010—**Dad’s Garage Theatre Company, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, The Pearl Theatre and Springboard for the Arts** have been selected to participate in Round 5 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). Since launching in 2008, 19 leading organizations from across the country have taken part, or are still participating, in the *Innovation Lab*.

### **Round 5 Grantees – Project Descriptions**

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**Dad’s Garage Theatre Company** was founded in 1995 as a small volunteer-led company. After years of rapid growth, the Atlanta-based company now is led by a professional staff and supports the work of more than 100 contracting artists, entertaining audiences of 30,000 people each year. The company presents scripted and improvised original works, a high school outreach program, and onsite improv classes and workshops. Through the Lab, Dad’s Garage will explore ways of transforming the company into a multi-platform creative company, creating work for many media, including television, film, radio and online, while preserving the company’s tradition of live theater.

**The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts** has been at center of Vermont’s cultural landscape for more than 75 years. Housed in a landmark 1,450-seat theatre in downtown Burlington, the Flynn Center provides a home to many organizations. In addition to producing more than 50 music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary events, the Flynn hosts a number of local cultural institutions, including the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and Ballet Theatre. Via the Lab, the Flynn Center will investigate and test new and resonant ways using technology to connect with stakeholders and build community.

**The Pearl Theatre** is a New York City repertory company, founded in 1984 and producing plays rooted in the classic tradition. The Pearl is unique in that it is the city’s only full Equity Resident Acting Company (RAC) with 12 members who train and perform together year round. The Company presents over 246 events each year, including a Mainstage season at City Center in Midtown Manhattan, arts in education programming and ongoing emerging artist training and professional development for artists and administrators. The Pearl will use the Lab to explore issues of sustainability in the American resident company model.

**Springboard for the Arts** is an arts service organization located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The company originated in 1978, and provides to artists an array of services, including career counseling, business training, micro-loans, among others, to help them “launch” their careers and provide assistance during difficult times. Since it began, Springboard for the Arts has served more than 50,000 artists and arts organizations. Through the Lab, the organization will consider strategies for replicating its work in new communities and creating a network of arts service providers.



## **Four more organizations will be selected for Round 6**

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Organizations are selected to participate in the *Innovation Lab* via a competitive national RFP process. ***The application deadline for Round 6 of the Lab is Tuesday, November 23, 2010.*** Professionally managed producing, presenting and service organizations in theater, modern/contemporary dance, and jazz are eligible to apply for the Lab. **Questions about eligibility and submitting a proposal should be directed to Beth Harrington, Innovation Projects Manager, at (212) 362-8541 x 34.**

In June 2010, three theater companies were selected to take part in Round 4 the *Innovation Lab*. These active participants are Denver Center Theatre Company (CO); Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (Washington, D.C.); and The Wooster Group (NY).

## **About the Innovation Lab**

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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, 12 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, among others. Past and current participants 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.); and The Wooster Group (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](http://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](http://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 maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.