



THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$600,000 IN GRANTS TO ARTIST AND ARTS ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS THAT BUILD DEMAND FOR THE ARTS

Eighteen Collaborations Nationwide Receive Support to Explore Strategies That Will Reach New Audiences and Increase Demand for Jazz, Dance and Theatre

NEW YORK, NY, November 17, 2015 — The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced the 18 teams of performing artists and arts organizations selected to receive a total of \$600,000 in Exploration grants through the foundation's Building Demand for the Arts program. This group of grantees is the third and final cohort to receive Exploration funding through the program, which launched in 2013 and supports inventive arts collaborations aiming to understand and connect more deeply with a particular audience through the fields of jazz, dance and/or theatre. This year's grantees represent a wide geographic span and interest in reaching diverse target audiences such as inner-city young adults, specific ethnic groups and the national deaf community.

"We are delighted to support this last cohort of artists and organizations as they imagine new ways to build demand for the arts," said Ben Cameron, program director for the Arts at DDCF. "Broadening our thinking about who our audiences are and how we connect with them is enormously challenging. We look forward to the bold ideas these teams generate and the impact they will make on their respective fields."

The Building Demand for the Arts program offers two types of grants: Exploration grants, which support investigative conversations between artists and organizations about ways to build demand for the performing arts, and Implementation grants, which support the implementation of previously crafted plans to build arts demand. The next Implementation grants funding specific projects of artist-organization partnerships will be announced in early 2016.

The recipients of the 2015 Building Demand for the Arts Exploration grants are:

- [**A Contemporary Theatre**](#) in partnership with **Lucia Neare** with a grant of \$40,000 to imagine ways to bridge the cultures of tech and live performance and build demand for theatre among Millennials working in the local tech industry in Seattle, WA.
- [**Actors Theatre of Louisville**](#) in partnership with **Ben Sollee** with a grant of \$40,000 to creatively rethink theatre's relationship with live music in a way that generates demand among Millennials in Louisville, KY.
- [**American Shakespeare Center**](#) in partnership with **Lindsey Snyder** with a grant of \$40,000 to experiment and forge new approaches to making Shakespearean theatre more accessible to and engaged with the American Sign Language community across the country.
- [**Christina Cultural Arts Center**](#) in partnership with **Lynnette Overby** with a grant of \$20,000 to innovate new ways that the arts, themed around oppression, resilience and liberation, can give voice to the experience of inner-city teenagers and young adults from Wilmington, DE.

- **Double Edge Theatre** in partnership with **Micaela Farías Gómez and Nick Slie** with a grant of \$20,000 to build a new slate of strategies that build demand for theatre across urban and rural communities around Springfield, MA.
- **Imagination Stage** in partnership with **Miriam Gonzales and Elena Velasco** with a grant of \$20,000 to craft new theatre and arts education programming that better serves and engages Latino youth and teenagers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.
- **Kansas City Repertory Theatre** in partnership with **Nathan Louis Jackson** with a grant of \$20,000 to drive more adventurous approaches to building demand for theatre among the African American community in and around Kansas City, MO.
- **Matrix Theatre Company** in partnership with **Zak Rosen and Maurizio Rosas-Dominguez** with a grant of \$40,000 to explore how audio plays and storytelling theatre can be used to connect with young adults in specific neighborhoods of Detroit, MI.
- **New York Theatre Workshop** in partnership with **Will Power** with a grant of \$40,000 to find effective ways to build demand for theatre among the diverse and rapidly changing audiences in the East Village neighborhood of New York City, NY.
- **Pasadena Playhouse** in partnership with **Velina Hasu Houston** with a grant of \$40,000 to investigate theatre-based ways to further its relationship with the ethnic Asian and Pacific Islander community in the San Gabriel Valley in California.
- **FringeArts** in partnership with **Alex Torra** with a grant of \$40,000 to test broader approaches to building demand for theatre among a local community in Philadelphia, PA that already has an intellectual interest in other forms of culture.
- **Pig Iron Theatre Company** in partnership with **Troy Herion** with a grant of \$40,000 to experiment with interdisciplinary approaches to building demand for theatre among primarily music-focused audiences in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Portland Institute for Contemporary Art** in partnership with **Darren O'Donnell** with a grant of \$40,000 to formalize new modes of challenging, thought-provoking theatre that engages teenagers from lower socioeconomic backgrounds in Portland, OR.
- **Portland Playhouse** in partnership with **Vin Shambry** with a grant of \$20,000 to explore effective ways that theatre can build authentic and mutually transformative relationships with the Black community in Portland, OR.
- **Ragamala Dance Company** in partnership with **DJ Rekha** with a grant of \$20,000 to investigate ways to reach the younger generation of South Asian Indians in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN with work that bridges contemporary Western aesthetic and classical South Indian tradition.
- **Studio Theatre** in partnership with **Kent Gash** with a grant of \$40,000 to understand how theatre can better connect with and reflect the wide-ranging experiences of the dynamic African American LGBTQ community in greater Washington, D.C.
- **Trinity Repertory Company** in partnership with **Laurie Woolery** with a grant of \$40,000 to develop a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship with the Hispanic/Latino community in Rhode Island through representative theatre.
- **University of Washington World Series** in partnership with **Amelia Rudolph and Melecio Estrella (BANDALOOOP)** with a grant of \$40,000 to strengthen the connection of the UW World Series dance performances with non-arts students on campus.

In addition to funding partnerships with the goal of building demand for the performing arts, the Building Demand for the Arts program promotes deeper, longer relationships as well as new kinds of conversation and cooperation between organizations and artists. At the same time, the grants provide substantial resources to artists and afford organizations the opportunity to embark on new kinds of behavior. DDCF is awarding these grants as part of a larger \$50 million, 10-year commitment over and above its existing funding for the performing arts. To learn more, visit www.ddcf.org.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The Arts Program of DDCF focuses its support on contemporary dance, jazz and theatre artists, and the organizations that nurture, present and produce them. For more information, please visit www.ddcf.org.

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