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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER AWARDED \$1,000,000 FROM DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Cambridge, November 27, 2013 — The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) announced Tuesday that the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is one of five arts organizations that will receive funding to help further development of its long-term capacity to respond to changing conditions in the performing arts sector and the world at large, including those related to demographics, audience behavior and the impact of technology.

In a joint statement, **A.R.T. Artistic Director Diane Paulus** and **Managing Director William Russo** expressed, "We are extremely honored to be recognized by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for this initiative." Paulus continued, "As a community we must respond to the changing conditions in the industry and investigate new artistic and managerial models that will foster a healthy cultural ecology." Russo added, "Since Diane's arrival at the A.R.T. she has charged the staff and leadership to think creatively about not "best practices" but rather "next practices." This award and the recognition that comes with it will help us fully realize the potential of our industry's future."

The A.R.T. was among five arts organizations including the **Oregon Shakespeare Festival** (Ashland, OR), A.R.T.'s partner in the production of Robert Schenkkan's *All the Way*, directed by OSF Artistic Director Robert Rauch (which has just been announced to begin a Broadway run next February). The other recipients are **On the Boards** (Seattle, WA); **Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts** (Middletown, CT); and **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** (Washington, D.C.).

Ben Cameron, Program Director for the Arts at DDCF, said, "This initiative recognizes and supports organizations that have proven, time and again, that they are leaders and innovators in their fields. We understand that most organizations do not have enough, if any, 'change capital'—funds that they can devote to maximizing their adaptability. With that in mind, these awards are intended to further fuel the ability of these five organizations to position themselves to respond to changes in their respective environments."

The grants were not open for application. Instead, an anonymous panel identified five organizations that have demonstrated a sustained appetite to innovate and experiment in ways that inform and lead their respective fields. Each organization will go through an organizational self-analysis, followed by an external assessment. Then they will develop and implement strategies and tactics to best enhance their long-term capacity to adapt. The grantees will receive support over a period of up to four years. Appropriate uses of this money include, but are not limited to, staff expansion, creation of capital reserves, professional development, technology, board and staff retreats, convenings and consultants. At present, the foundation considers this a unique, one-time program that is not open to application and requests that interested parties do not contact DDCF staff. DDCF instead encourages organizations to watch ddcf.org closely for an update later in 2014 about whether or not additional grants will be awarded and if so, what the process may be.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation 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. The Foundation's Arts Program 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.

About the A.R.T.

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater. Winner of the 2012 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival for its production of ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***, the A.R.T. is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. The A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. In 2008, Diane Paulus became the A.R.T.'s Artistic Director. The A.R.T. is the recipient of numerous other awards including the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater, the Pulitzer Prize, and many Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. Its recent premiere production of ***Death and The Powers: The Robots' Opera*** was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

During its 32-year history, the A.R.T. has welcomed many major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes premieres of American plays, bold reinterpretations of classical texts and provocative new music theater productions. The A.R.T. has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide in 21 cities in 16 countries on four continents. The A.R.T. is also a training ground for young artists. The Theater's artistic staff teaches undergraduate classes in acting, directing, dramatic literature, dramaturgy, voice, and design at Harvard University. In 1987, the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. A two-year, five-semester M.F.A. graduate program that operates in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class professional training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

Since becoming Artistic Director, Diane Paulus has enhanced the A.R.T.'s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater by continuing to transform the ways in which work is developed, programmed, produced and contextualized, always including the audience as a partner. Productions such as ***Sleep No More, The Donkey Show, Gatz, The Blue Flower, Prometheus Bound, The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***, and ***Pippin*** have engaged audiences in unique theatrical experiences. The A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, which Paulus calls a second stage for the 21st century, has become an incubator for local and emerging artists, and has also attracted national attention for its innovative programming model.

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, is fully accessible. ASL interpreted and audio described performances are available at select productions. Visit americanrepertorytheater.org/access for more information.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit **AmericanRepertoryTheater.org**

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