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Contact: Liv Amundsen, lamundsen@theatreforward.org
(212) 750-6895

THEATRE FORWARD ANNOUNCES THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$300,000 IN FUNDING TO RECIPIENTS OF BANK OF AMERICA ACTIVATE AWARDS TO ACCELERATE REGIONAL THEATRES' EFFORTS TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

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March 16, 2021 – **Theatre Forward** is pleased to announce six recipients of the **Bank of America ACTivate Awards**. The Bank of America ACTivate Awards, a Theatre Forward program, seeks to foster and accelerate a theatre's efforts to become more equitable, diverse, and inclusive of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and groups.

Theatre Forward and Bank of America have partnered to award the first round of \$300,000 to six theatres that will receive grants of \$50,000 each toward projects that advance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives. The program supports essential work within the theatre and/or projects that are outwardly focused to advance or deepen relationships with the BIPOC community. This is the first of multiple cycles of the Bank of America ACTivate Awards that will be funded by Bank of America.

Theatres receiving grants in 2021 are **Actors Theatre of Louisville** (Louisville, KY), **American Conservatory Theater** (San Francisco, CA), **American Repertory Theater** (Cambridge, MA), **Center Theatre Group** (Los Angeles, CA), **The Old Globe** (San Diego, CA), and **Trinity Repertory Company** (Providence, RI).

The Bank of America ACTivate Awards are supported by Bank of America, along with the Schloss Family Foundation and The Patti and Rusty Rueff Foundation. The participating theatres were selected by a panel composed of Stephanie Ybarra, Artistic Director of Baltimore Center Stage; Sandra Gibson, Executive Director at SNF Parkway/Maryland Film Festival; Bill Rauch, Artistic Director of The Ronald O. Perelman Center for the Performing Arts; Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor Adjunct in Theater Management for Yale School of Drama and the General Manager of Yale Repertory Theatre; Eric Ting, Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater; and coordinated by consultant Fran Kumin.

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Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. The company supports close to 2,000 nonprofit cultural institutions each year. Bank of America's art program is part of the company's commitment to grow responsibly while bringing value to economies, society and the communities it serves. For more information, click [here](#).

Theatre Forward is a nonprofit organization, based in New York City, that provides financial support and resources to a network of 19 prominent regional theatres across America. By connecting these theatres to funding and resources on a national level, Theatre Forward helps drive education and community programs that fuel positive social change and engagement in local communities. Theatre Forward programs include the Bank of America ACTivate Awards to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion, and Educating Through Theatre, which leverages theatre to inform, inspire, and educate people of all ages. For more information, visit www.theatreforward.org

#ACTivateAwards
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