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

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July 5, 2022 – **Theatre Forward** is pleased to announce six recipients of the **Bank of America ACTivate Awards**. The Bank of America ACTivate Awards, a [Theatre Forward grants program](#), seeks to foster and accelerate theatres' 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 second 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.

The theatres that have been awarded grants in 2022 are **Actors Theatre of Louisville** (Louisville, KY), **Alley Theatre** (Houston, TX), **Alliance Theatre** (Atlanta, GA), **Center Theatre Group** (Los Angeles, CA), **Long Wharf Theatre** (New Haven, CT), and **The Old Globe** (San Diego, CA).

"Bank of America's generous support is helping our nation's theatres take necessary steps to become more inclusive and serve their local communities better," said Gretchen Shugart, Executive Director of Theatre Forward. "Grant proceeds will be used to create bi-lingual programs, expand fellowships and artist opportunities for BIPOC individuals, and continue essential EDI&A trainings and workshops for staff and board. We applaud these theatres and Bank of America for investing in this meaningful work."

"We believe that the arts help create greater cultural understanding and in turn, strengthen our communities," said Brian Siegel, Global Arts and Heritage Executive, Bank of America. "Our partnership with Theatre Forward and the continuation of the Bank of America ACTivate Awards, is just one way that we underscore the importance of theatre as a vital part of the local economy."

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 coordinated by consultant Fran Kumin and composed of Donna Walker-Kuhne, President of Walker International Communications Group; Emika Abe,

Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; Raymond Bobgan, Executive Artistic Director of Cleveland Public Theatre; Bill Rauch, Artistic Director of The Ronald O. Perelman Center for the Performing Arts; and Stephanie Ybarra, Artistic Director of Baltimore Center Stage.

The Bank of America ACTivate Awards are a key demonstration of [Bank of America's arts support](#) worldwide. Through unique programs like these awards, as well as the Art Conservation Project, Museums on Us®, loaning exhibitions through the Art in Our Communities program, the Masterpiece Moment video series and sponsorships and grants, Bank of America supports a wide range of both local and world-class organizations. The company's programs are designed to have a positive impact on economies and societies throughout the world and help create greater cultural understanding. Through steadfast and strategic support, Bank of America has become one of the world's leading corporate supporters of the arts.

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

Bank of America

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