

THE WALLACE ALEXANDER GERBODE FOUNDATION

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**For Immediate Release:
January 9, 2019**

Gerbode Foundation Invites Applications for its 2019 Theater Production Awards

Berkeley, Calif.— The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, in partnership with the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, is pleased to announce the second round of its three-year \$900,000 initiative for the commissioning of new performing arts works. Six grants for the commission and production of new dance works by some of the Bay Area's most distinguished choreographers were announced in June 2018, representing the first year of the initiative.

The theater production awards are the second round of this initiative with a \$300,000 fund for the creation and production of new theater productions written and imagined by California writers, playwrights, spoken word artists, creative writers, and musical theater-makers. The works are to be commissioned and premiered by Bay Area nonprofit arts organizations that can apply for grants of \$50,000 each. The resulting works will have their world premieres in Bay Area public performances between June 2020 and October 2022.

Proposed commissions in all theater genres will be considered. Applicants must be nonprofit organizations and based in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, or Sonoma counties.

“Over 30 years after our first round of supporting new theater productions in 1987, we continue our commitment to supporting individual artists and investing in the creative process and development of their new work,” said Stacie Ma'a, president of the Gerbode Foundation. “We look forward to receiving applications that represent numerous creative styles, unique perspectives, and various approaches to creating new theater productions.”

Applications for the 2019 Theater Production Awards are available online at www.gerbode.org. Application materials must be submitted to the Gerbode Foundation **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019**. An advisory panel of theater experts from across the country will review all the proposals, and final selections will be made by the Gerbode Foundation. Recipients will be announced in July 2019.

For questions regarding the program guidelines and application, please contact Olivia Malabuyo Tablante, the Special Awards in the Arts Program Director. She can be reached at 510-915-8048 or olivia@gerbode.org.

About The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation

The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation is interested in programs and projects offering potential for significant impact. The primary geographical focus is on the San Francisco Bay Area and Hawaii. The Foundation's interests generally fall under the categories of arts and culture, environment, reproductive rights, civic engagement, and Foundation-initiated special projects.

About the Special Awards in the Arts Program

Since 1987, the Gerbode Foundation has made innovative grants through its Special Awards in the Arts Program to Bay Area arts institutions to commission new works from choreographers, playwrights, and composers. The Special Awards Program has also supported visual artists, poets, and multimedia artists.

In a time of cultural shifts and fiscal insecurity in the arts, these coveted, nationally respected awards have helped underwrite culturally and aesthetically diverse, acclaimed new works by prominent artists and emerging ones. These grants have supported artists at critical junctures in their careers; enabled nonprofit local arts groups to develop and debut substantial, original works; and enriched Bay Area audiences, readers, and viewers by giving them first access to ambitious new creations.

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