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NATIONAL
PERFORMANCE
NETWORK

25th
ANNIVERSARY

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMING ART WORK

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awards \$100,000 to the National Performance Network to support the design and implementation of the NPN Forth Fund Pilot Program including developmental support for six Creation Fund projects

NEW ORLEANS, LA (January 21, 2010)—The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the National Performance Network (NPN) \$100,000 to pilot the NPN Forth Fund. The Forth Fund will build upon the NPN Creation Fund, a subsidy program that provides performing artists creating new work for touring with \$10,000 of unrestricted support. By contributing an additional \$15,000 towards the crucial production phase of development, the Forth Fund will enhance and deepen finished NPN Creation Fund work. Funds will be disbursed directly to Creation Fund recipients and commissioners, and will provide access to critical managerial, artistic and technical resources necessary to produce a new work for touring.

“Too much work is put before an audience without being observed with the perspective of a viewer in the audience. Moving from a studio into a theater, one must have time to adjust to the new setting and respond to its needs,” says Wally Cardona, NPN Creation Fund artist. The Forth Fund will develop excellent new work by allowing resources and time for works to fully realize their potential.

The goals of the Forth Fund are to provide expanded resources to artists and to strengthen the relationship between commissioning organizations and the artists they present, providing independent artists with organizational resources, such as space, time and expertise.

During its pilot phase, NPN will invite six Creation Fund recipients to apply for support based on a variety of factors such as the stage of development, artistic discipline, geographic location, and cultural diversity in order to test and evaluate a broad range of projects. NPN will make six awards of \$15,000 (\$10,000 NPN Subsidy and \$5,000 cash or in-kind match from the commissioning partner) to each project.

“Creative development support is central to improving the overall quality of work being produced in the US,” says MK Wegmann, NPN President and CEO. “The Forth Fund will enable artists to produce their best work, extend the life of new work, and provide communities and audiences with a richer cultural experience. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recognizes that a deeper investment in the creative process can contribute to a strengthened support system for artists.”

About the National Performance Network (NPN)

The National Performance Network (NPN) is a group of diverse cultural organizers, including artists, working to create meaningful partnerships and to provide leadership that enables the practice and public experience of the arts in the United States. NPN annually leverages nearly \$3,000,000 in financial support for the creation and touring of contemporary performance work. NPN is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the Ford Foundation, the MetLife Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Lambent Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information, visit www.npnweb.org.

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation builds, strengthens and sustains institutions and their core capacities; develops thoughtful, long-term collaborations with grant recipients; and invests sufficient funds for an extended period to accomplish the purpose at hand and achieve meaningful results. Mellon grants in six core program areas: Higher Education and Scholarship, Scholarly Communications, Research in Information Technology, Museums and Art Conservation, Performing Arts, and Conservation and the Environment. For more information, visit www.mellon.org.

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