

For immediate release: April 8, 2014

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**EmcArts partners with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
to launch Round 9 of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts*
and Round 2 of the *Innovation Lab for Arts Development Agencies***

**Eight arts organizations and arts development agencies from across the country will participate in
a unique immersion program to uncover adaptive strategies, launch innovation initiatives**

Proposals for participation will be accepted through May 30, 2014

April 8, 2014—In 2014, EmcArts, the leading nonprofit provider of services in innovation and adaptive change to the arts sector, will further advance its pioneering *Innovation Labs*, immersion programs for arts and arts service organizations. EmcArts is pleased to partner with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) to deliver two more Rounds of the program to eight participating organizations from across the country in 2014 and 2015. These Rounds are funded by a generous \$1.58 million grant from DDCF.

Eligible organizations for Round 9 of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts* are nonprofit producing and presenting organizations in theater, modern or contemporary dance, and jazz (including college-based presenters).

Following our pilot this past year, we are also pleased to invite proposals for Round 2 of the *Innovation Lab for Arts Development Agencies*. This program is specifically for organizations that do not produce or present the performing arts, but rather provide services in support of the ongoing development of an arts discipline, its organizations and practitioners, or of a particular area of arts activities (defined, for instance, geographically, or by theme – such as arts and disability) – collectively called *arts development agencies*.

Both Lab Rounds will run in parallel from July 2014 through April 2016, with up to four organizations participating in each Lab.

Originally launched in 2008, EmcArts' *Innovation Labs* help teams from the selected organizations design and prototype new ideas and launch real-life projects that address complex challenges facing arts and cultural organizations. Participants take part in a 16-month immersion program featuring an extended framework of individual coaching and group facilitation, guided by field research and led by EmcArts' expert facilitators. The Labs give arts organizations the time and space they need away from the regular workplace to question, rethink, plan and learn how to innovate effectively. Participating organizations also receive much-needed change capital to underwrite experimentation.

Of the Performing Arts Lab, its external evaluator wrote in 2010: "[The program] provides a needed antidote to the general trend of throwing resources, time and energy toward flavor-of-the-month initiatives that seem attractive in turbulent times."

To date, DDCF has provided \$6,283,000 in support of the *Innovation Labs*. Reflecting learning from the Labs since 2008, EmcArts is now redesigning them for a greater emphasis on building adaptive capacity and enabling culture change. The two upcoming Rounds will therefore be the last in the current format.

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Ben Cameron, Program Director for the Arts at DDCF, said: “The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is pleased to extend our support for these final two rounds of the current EmcArts Innovation Labs for the Performing Arts and for Arts Development Agencies. We have been especially gratified by the embrace of innovation at the local and regional level, by arts organizations and funders alike, and hope that this important work will continue. This program is especially important in changing times and has shown itself to have unique impacts, not only on the supported organizations, but on the larger performing arts field, as leaders grapple with the need to adapt.”

Richard Evans, President of EmcArts said: “We are thrilled to continue the development of our Labs with generous support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Today’s operating environment for the arts is highly complex. Arts leaders must be able to adapt their programs, strategies and organizational structures thoughtfully and quickly to respond to rapid changes and fleeting opportunities. To develop these adaptive capacities, organizations can benefit from carefully structured interventions – formal assistance and effective frameworks like those provided through the *Innovation Labs* – to support the design and testing of new strategies. Otherwise, we see experiments eroding over time into variants on everyday practice. The Labs help fresh approaches and solutions to be discovered and sustained, so that cultural vitality can be advanced nationally.”

Selection Process

Organizations are selected to participate in the *Innovation Labs* via a competitive RFP process. ***The application deadline for Round 9 of the Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts and Round 2 of the Innovation Lab for Arts Development Agencies is Friday, May 30, 2014. Information may be found in the RFPs at www.EmcArts.org.*** Professionally managed producing and presenting organizations in theater, modern or contemporary dance, and jazz are eligible to apply for Round 9 of the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts*. Organizations that do not primarily produce or present the performing arts, but rather provide services in support of the ongoing development of an arts discipline, its organizations and practitioners, or of a particular area of arts activities are eligible to apply to Round 2 of the *Innovation Lab for Arts Development Agencies*. **Questions about eligibility and submitting a proposal should be directed to Liz Dreyer, EmcArts National Programs Manager, at (212) 362-8541 x 27.**

About the Innovation Labs

EmcArts’ *Innovation Labs* have four phases:

Phase 1 – EmcArts works with each organization to identify an Innovation Team (of up to 10 people), which then explores complex challenges, identifies possible adaptive responses, defines project goals and success measures, and conducts pertinent research.

Phase 2 – Innovation Teams from all participating organizations attend a 5-day Intensive residential Retreat that serves as a “project accelerator,” giving teams time to focus on key decisions about their emerging initiatives.

Phase 3 – EmcArts grants Lab participants \$30,000 in change capital (plus \$9,000 in unrestricted funds) to support the prototyping and evaluation of innovative strategies before full launch.

Phase 4 – Organizations work with EmcArts to strengthen the capacities developed through prototyping, and to enroll the full organization to continuing adaptive change work.

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To date, 33 organizations have participated in the *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts* and *Innovation Lab for Arts Development Agencies*, representing a range of disciplines and launching a wide variety of innovative initiatives.

Innovations in Patron Engagement and Participation:

- Apollo Theater Foundation, NY
- Denver Center Theatre Company, CO
- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, VT
- Geva Theatre Center, NY
- HERE, NY
- MAPP International Productions, NY
- Roadside Theater (Appalshop), KY
- Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, OR
- University Music Society, MI
- The Wooster Group, NY
- Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, CA

Innovations in Collaborative Programming and Strategic Alliances:

- Center of Creative Arts, MO
- Dad's Garage, GA
- Northrop Arts & Lectures, Minneapolis, MN
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR

Innovations in Education/Youth Programming:

- Children's Theatre Company, MN
- Dancewave, NY
- STREB Dance Company, New York
- The Pearl Theatre, NY

Innovations in Community Engagement:

- Adventure Stage Chicago, IL
- The Civilians, NY
- Dance/USA, Washington, DC
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington DC
- Redmoon Theater, Chicago, IL
- Springboard for the Arts, MN
- Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington DC

Innovations in Organizational Structure, Legacy and Culture:

- Alternate ROOTS, GA
- Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, with Dance Theater Workshop, NY
- International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), NY
- Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, MD
- New Dramatists, NY
- The Theater Offensive, Boston, MA
- Theatre Communications Group (TCG), NY

About EmcArts

Recognized as the leading nonprofit provider of services in innovation and adaptive change to the arts sector nationwide, EmcArts (www.EmcArts.org) serves as a nonprofit intermediary for arts funders, and as a re-granting agency and service organization for the arts field. Our adaptive capacity-building programs support the development and implementation of mission-centered new strategies by arts organizations of all sizes. The programs range from directly incubating specific innovation initiatives to introductory programs that enable new thinking and build a culture of innovation across local arts communities, and nationally via www.ArtsFwd.org.

About DDCF

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The Arts Program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation focuses its support on contemporary dance, jazz and theatre artists, and the organizations that nurture, present and produce them.