

Press Contact:

Tim Etheridge, Director of Public Relations
510 647-2917; tetheridge@berkeleyrep.org

For Immediate Release**BERKELEY REP TO RECEIVE \$40,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS****Funds to support *The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and
Development of New Work***

January 12, 2022— Berkeley Repertory Theatre is proud to announce it is a recipient of \$40,000 from Grants for Arts Projects to support [The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work](#). The Ground Floor is among 1,248 projects across America totaling \$28,840,000 that were selected to receive this first round of fiscal year 2022 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects category.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from Berkeley Repertory Theatre that help support the community's creative economy," said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. "Berkeley Rep is among the arts organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts."

"We're thrilled that the NEA has chosen to, once again, support this project," says Berkeley Rep Managing Director Susie Medak. "We are about to celebrate ten years of The Ground Floor and this grant is a terrific way to help honor this milestone. The Ground Floor is a critical investment in improving the quality of work on our stages, and supporting the innovative artists who are reshaping the American theatre canon."

The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

**ABOUT THE GROUND FLOOR: BERKELEY REP'S CENTER FOR THE CREATION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK**

The Ground Floor is the program that encompasses Berkeley Rep's new work development activities. Over the years, as we've increased the amount of new work we develop, it became clear to us that the regional theatre is very good at rehearsing and producing plays that have been done before and whose scripts are relatively set and fixed. But it is not set up well to foster the creation of a new piece of theatre from the ground up. No two projects require the same things, and the system we have now tries to

shoehorn every process into the same structure. The Ground Floor aims to address this through a year-long series of commissions, workshops, and a concentrated Summer Residency Lab. We hope to incorporate a level of flexibility rarely allowed in an institutional theatre setting.

We emphasize process over product. We provide resources for artists to respond to the modern and changing world, promote cross-pollination among artists and place high value on face-to-face contact. We celebrate language in its broadest terms and define it as more than just the spoken word: we will use our theatrical medium to explore language in all its forms.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its ambition, relevance, and excellence, as well as its adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. Over 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. To formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities — which also include the 400-seat Peet's Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley — are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org

###