

PRESS RELEASE

For interview or media inquiry,
Taylor Carter Jones: 212 722 3800



The National Black Theatre To Host Catalyst: Moving the Black Theatre Legacy Forward

(HARLEM, NY) – July 24 2014 – From August 4-7, 2014, Dr. Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre is hosting *Catalyst: Moving the Black Theatre Legacy Forward*, a 4-day intensive for 21 of America's leading Black Theatre Institutions where we will begin tackling the financial and structural crisis Black Theatres are facing nationwide. This is the first national convening of its kind in the 21st century and is being produced with support from the MetLife/TCG A-ha! Program: ThinkIt Grant, New York Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council and sponsorship from Black Theatre Network, Howlround.com and Aloft Harlem.

"Catalyst is a program designed by NBT to address the systemic issues impacting the very lifeline of Black Institutions in the American Theater field; our business model. For over 300 years Black Theatres from across the country have tirelessly documented, articulated, nurtured and given breath to the often forgotten narratives of the nameless, voiceless and underserved people in our communities. Despite this vital & important work, we find many of our institutions are perpetually on the brink of extinction. This convening was designed specifically to address the unique challenges that black theaters face today & aims to create the bridge, narrative, & identify the infrastructure that will help to build the capacity & sustainability for future generations to come," says **Sade Lythcott, CEO of The National Black Theatre**. "NBT continues to stay committed to our founder Dr. Teer's mission and vision of entrepreneurial autonomy & the sacred stewardship of our ancestors call for liberation, so that their life, love & struggle will not be lived in vain. Catalyst will be a celebration of our strengths, our resilience and our ability to keep soul alive."

CATALYST will explore three core competencies around non-profit sustainability: capitalization, development, and strategic planning. The summit will occur in two parts, a Private and Public Summit. The Private Summit is a three-day intensive workshop for the 21 participating theatres lead by Carmen Morgan (TCG) and Ebony Golden (Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative) and includes a daylong workshop with Luz Rodriguez at The Foundation Center and guest speaker Susan Nelson (TD Corp).

Theatres participating include:

- Arena Players, Inc., Baltimore MD
- Billie Holiday Theatre, New York, NY
- The Carpetbag Theatre Inc, Knoxville, TN
- Congo Square Theatre Company, Chicago, IL
- ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Chicago, IL
- The Fire This Time Festival, New York, NY
- Hatiloo Theatre, Memphis, TN
- The Hansberry Project, Seattle, WA
- Junebug Productions, New Orleans, LA
- Karamu House, Cleveland, Ohio
- Liberation Theatre Company, New York, NY
- MPAACT Theatre, Chicago, IL
- The Movement Theatre Company, New York, NY
- National Black Theatre, New York, NY
- New Federal Theatre, New York, NY
- New Heritage Theatre Group, New York, NY
- North Carolina Black Repertory Company Inc. Winston-Salem, NC
- The Robey Theatre Company, Los Angeles, CA
- South Dallas Cultural Center, Dallas, TX
- Towne Street Theatre, Los Angeles, CA
- 651 ARTS, Brooklyn, NY

The Public Summit, moderated by Dafina McMillan (TCG) and featuring leading theatre practitioners, will occur on Thursday, August 7th at 7pm at the National Black Theatre. This panel discussion will focus on the question "Is Black Theatre Sustainable?" and how we can collectively activate our resources and partnerships to thrive. The Public Summit will be live-streamed and tweeted on Howlround TV and open to the public.

MORE

PRESS RELEASE

Catalyst is inspired by the online discussion on Howlround.com curated by Jonathan McCrory, NBT's Director of Theatre Arts Program.

For more information on Catalyst please head to the National Black Theatre's website at www.nationalblacktheatre.org. If you interested in attending the Public Summit happening on NBT's property please contact Taylor Carter Jones by calling 212-722-3800 or emailing her at info@nationalblacktheatre.org.

About The National Black Theatre

Founded by visionary Dr. Barbara Ann Teer in 1968, National Black Theatre (NBT) is a nationally recognized cultural and educational institution. Dr. Teer pioneered "the healing art of black theatre as an instrument for wholeness in urban communities where entrepreneurial artists of African descent live and work." In 1983, Dr. Teer expanded the vision of NBT by purchasing a 64,000-square-foot building on 125th Street and Fifth Avenue (renamed "National Black Theatre Way" by local law in 1994). This was the first revenue-generating black arts complex in the country, an innovative arrangement through which for-profit businesses who shared NBT's spiritual and aesthetic values rented retail space to subsidize the arts. Out of her vision, NBT houses the largest collection of Nigerian new sacred art in the Western hemisphere and is considered the authentic representation of a model whose time has come. NBT is partially supported by grants from the City Council of New York, City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Columbia Service Society, Theatre Communications Group, Met-Life and private donations. Visit www.nationalblacktheatre.org or follow NBT on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NationalBlackTheatre) and Twitter/Instagram(@NatBlackTheatre).

###