

## **2006 EMERGING PLAYWRIGHT AWARDS**

Funded by The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation  
and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### **GUIDELINES**

The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation are pleased to fund a special round of \$50,000 grants for the creation and production of major contemporary plays by up and coming California playwrights. These new works are to be commissioned and premiered by Bay Area performing arts organizations.

The goals of this program are:

1. To encourage the creative efforts and professional development of gifted California playwrights, age 35 or younger at the time of application.
2. To assist Bay Area performing arts organizations in their efforts to commission, develop, and premiere worthy new works by young playwrights of great merit.
3. To stimulate greater awareness, support for, and appreciation of accomplished, inventive contemporary plays in the Bay Area and elsewhere.

### **PROGRAM OUTLINE**

Grants will be awarded to as many as six nonprofit, professionally-oriented performing arts presenters for the creation and world premiere of major new plays. \$25,000 of each award will be given as a commission fee to the playwright. The remaining \$25,000 will go to the performing arts organization for expenses related to the costs of presenting the world premiere (i.e., rehearsal and performance payment for performers, technical, facility, and publicity costs, etc.).

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. All applications must be submitted by nonprofit performing arts presenting organizations or multi-disciplinary presenting organizations (such as performing arts centers, festivals, community arts facilities, theater producers, and community centers).

**PLEASE NOTE: Applications may NOT be submitted by individual artists.**

2. Each applicant organization must:
  - a) Be a nonprofit, tax-exempt, public charity organization that has been in existence in the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, Napa, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Solano or San Mateo for at least three (3) years prior to the application deadline.
  - b) Have a proven track record of producing and/or presenting modern plays (at least five plays in the Bay Area, and/or on tour, over the past three years), and have access to a facility equipped for plays.
  - c) Identify itself as a professional or aspiring professional organization, and pay its artistic, production, and administrative personnel more than token fees.

3. A playwright proposed by an applicant organization must:
  - a) Be a fulltime resident of California for two or more years, and be 35 years old or younger at the time of application.
  - b) Have written and have presented at least three (including two full-length) plays, which have been given full productions (as opposed to just readings or workshops).
  - c) Have a strong artistic track record to date, and consider writing plays to be his or her primary artistic enterprise.
4. Organizations may submit only one application for one commission. A playwright may be nominated for one grant by only one organization.
5. Commissioned plays must be original, contemporary works, at least one hour in duration, which the presenter intends to be fully staged and costumed. The following are **ineligible**: new drafts of previously produced scripts, translations, faithful adaptations, and works-in-progress currently in rehearsal or development.
6. A commission must result in a fully rehearsed world premiere presentation, open to the public and press. The premiere must take place no earlier than September 2008 and no later than June 2010 in the Bay Area. Co-productions with groups outside the Bay Area may be eligible, but the work's world premiere must occur in the San Francisco Bay Area under the auspices of the grant recipient organization.
7. An interim report specifying production plans must be made to the Gerbode Foundation before all funds will become available. If the production schedule is altered, the Gerbode Foundation must be notified and give its written approval.
8. Grantees must agree to award \$25,000 to the playwright as a commission fee, and spend the additional \$25,000 on the costs of developing and producing the commissioned work.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

1. All applications and requested attachments must arrive at the Gerbode Foundation office, no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 24, 2006. No late applications will be eligible.
2. Applicants are required to submit either:
  - 2 completed full-length scripts (5 copies of each)
  - OR**
  - 1 completed full-length script (5 copies) and 2 one-acts (5 copies of each)

All submitted scripts must have been written by the proposed playwright within the past five years. A short synopsis of a paragraph or two (5 copies of each) must also be submitted for each play.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you would like the scripts returned, please include a stamped (without postage meter date), self-addressed mail pouch of the correct size with your application. The scripts will NOT be returned if you do not send a properly prepared mail pouch with your application.**

3. All application pages must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper, **single-sided**, and clipped together but **not stapled or bound**. Script pages may be bound.

4. Applications are available at the Gerbode Foundation website at [www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/gerbode](http://www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/gerbode).
5. The applicant may also email Olivia Malabuyo at the Gerbode Foundation, [omalabuyo@gerbode.org](mailto:omalabuyo@gerbode.org), to request an application form, via email as an MS Word attachment. Upon completion, the applicant is required to print out the application on 8.5" x 11" paper, single-sided, and mail it in with the required submission materials. **Applications will NOT be accepted electronically.**
6. The application form may also be reproduced on the applicant's computer, but the applicant should allow the same amount of space for each response as is provided on the original application form. Upon completion, the applicant is required to print out the application on 8.5" x 11" paper, single-sided, and mail it in with the required submission materials. **Applications will NOT be accepted electronically.**
7. Please contact Olivia Malabuyo at the Gerbode Foundation, 415-391-0911, if you need a hard copy of the application mailed to you.

### **SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Applications will be reviewed by an advisory panel of experts in the field. The Gerbode Foundation will conduct the final review of applications and make the final selection of grantees. **Grantees will be announced in January 2007.**

Proposals will be judged by the following criteria:

1. Artistic merit of the playwright as represented by previous artistic history, and submitted materials.
2. The tone, scope, and originality of the proposed commission.
3. The goals, experience, and professional track record of the applicant organization, and its demonstrated commitment to producing contemporary plays.
4. The potential impact of the proposed project on the long-term goals and future direction of the playwright and the presenting organization.
5. The practical feasibility of the project, including the applicant organization's ability to finance, rehearse, produce, and premiere the commissioned piece, and the proposed playwright's ability to complete the project within the stated time frame.