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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2018

Bishop Arts Theatre Center Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

Grant to support Silver Stories, an arts education initiative aimed at engaging senior citizens

[Dallas, Texas] — The National Endowment for the Arts is awarding Bishop Arts Theatre Center a \$10,000 grant to support Silver Stories, an arts education initiative aimed at engaging senior citizens.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center is seeking to combat social isolation and loneliness that negatively affects the health of seniors in our community, by actively engaging them in arts workshops with the organization's teaching artists. Designed to stimulate the body, minds, and souls of senior citizens through creative writing, improvisation, visual art, and storytelling, Silver Stories brings senior citizens from different communities to the theatre to interact positively with each other. Studies show social isolation and loneliness are associated with increased mortality in older adults and has been linked to adverse health effects, including dementia, increased risk for hospital readmission, and increased risk of falls. Research consistently shows that feeling connected and involved benefit both mental and physical health. Bishop Arts Theatre Center believes staying socially active may help slow cognitive decline and improve happiness for seniors in the Dallas area.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring all Americans have access to the arts, whether they are in a small or large, rural or urban area," said NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "We are proud to support organizations such as Bishop Arts Theatre Center that are providing opportunities for more people to experience and engage in the arts in their communities."

"For more than two decades, the Bishop Arts Theatre has provided robust opportunities for our youth. We're thrilled to expand our arts education program offerings to include senior citizens, and we're grateful to the NEA for the support," offered founder and Executive Artistic Director Teresa Coleman Wash.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.

ABOUT BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER (BATC)

Nestled in the heart of Dallas' Oak Cliff community, the Bishop Arts Theatre Center is an award-winning, multicultural, multi-discipline theatre company. Founded in 1993, the mission of the organization is to cultivate a diverse and vibrant arts community while creating opportunities for local and emerging artists through performances and education. The BATC offers a full season of theatre performances, jazz concerts, a speaker series and year-round arts education programs.

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