

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mahaiwe Selected for the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative

A \$25 million investment in 29 arts organizations from across Massachusetts over six years to strengthen their financial health and “adaptive capacity.”

Great Barrington, Mass.—We are pleased to announce that the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center was selected to participate in the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative – as announced earlier today [on the Barr Foundation’s blog](#). A partnership between two Boston-based foundations—Barr and The Klarman Family Foundation—the initiative is a \$25 million, six-year investment in 29 arts and cultural organizations from across Massachusetts. Participating organizations receive flexible, multi-year operating support grants, in addition to training and technical assistance from TDC, a nonprofit consulting and research firm. The Mahaiwe’s engagement in the initiative begins with two grants totaling \$462,000 over three years, which is among the most significant multi-year grants ever received by the organization.

“We are thrilled by this recognition by the Barr and Klarman Family Foundations of the valuable role the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center plays in the heart of downtown Great Barrington. We are committed to excellence, diversity, and community in our year-round programming, and are very proud of the ways our arts experiences connect audience members to themselves and to each other every season,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Berl Jolly. “The timing could not be better, as we are poised for a strategic leap to deepen our audience outreach and widen our artistic breadth. This funding and associated trainings will help us to build the steady foundations for innovative work. We are also excited to partner with our treasured Berkshire and state-wide cohorts through this unique program.”

“Organizations like the Mahaiwe are the cultural hearts of their communities,” said San San Wong, Director of Arts & Creativity for the Barr Foundation. “They are sites of public assembly and dialogue, often working to foster understanding and connection across cultural differences. It is our privilege to support the Mahaiwe in this journey to further strengthen its financial health and capacity to adapt to change—that it might deepen and continue this work for years to come.”

“Arts organizations, including the Mahaiwe play a critical role in the health of our communities,” said Laura Sherman, Director, Greater Boston Grantmaking for The Klarman Family Foundation. “We are committed to strengthening this cohort of 29 arts organizations across the Commonwealth that have the ability to connect and enliven communities through culture, tradition and creative expression, and we are proud to be a part of this initiative.”

Representing diversity across artistic disciplines, geographic reach, stages of organizational development, and budget sizes, the 29 organizations participating in the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative are:

- Academy of Music Theatre (Northampton)
- A Far Cry (Boston)
- Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield)
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (Boston)

- Boston Modern Orchestra Project (Malden)
- Cape Ann Museum (Gloucester)
- Community Access to the Arts (Great Barrington)
- Community Art Center (Cambridge)
- Community Music School of Springfield (Springfield)
- Company One Theatre (Boston)
- The Dance Complex (Cambridge)
- Design Museum Boston (Boston)
- Double Edge Theatre (Ashfield)
- Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts (Boston)
- Featherstone Center for the Arts (Martha's Vineyard)
- Fitchburg Art Museum (Fitchburg)
- Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (Great Barrington)
- Merrimack Repertory Theatre (Lowell)
- New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (New Bedford)
- New Bedford Symphony Orchestra (New Bedford)
- Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge)
- Now + There (Boston)
- Payomet Performing Arts Center (North Truro)
- Provincetown Art Association and Museum (Provincetown)
- Raw Art Works (Lynn)
- The Record Co. (Boston)
- SpeakEasy Stage (Boston)
- Worcester Art Museum (Worcester)
- Zeiterion Theatre (New Bedford)

The Mahaiwe and each participant in this initiative will receive multi-year, unrestricted operating grants. Additionally, through a grant to the TDC, a nationally recognized nonprofit consulting and research group, organizations will also receive customized training and technical assistance, and be eligible for supplemental funds for targeted research, capacity building, and/or pilot projects. Last week, the foundations made the first set of three-year grants under the new initiative, marking the beginning of what is expected to be a six-year journey of learning, collaboration, and growth.

For more information about the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative page, including the ideas underlying the effort, key elements of the experience for participating organizations, selection criteria, and evaluation findings, visit <https://www.barrfoundation.org/what-we-do/barr-klarman-massachusetts-arts-initiative>.

“We are deeply grateful for the enlightened philanthropy shown by the Barr and Klarman Foundations. It is a profound endorsement of the importance of the arts in a civil society, and an acknowledgement that organizations like the Mahaiwe are always stretching to establish a sure financial footing while also reaching toward ambitious artistic goals,” said Mahaiwe Board Chair Maggie Buchwald. “This long-term investment by the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative in growing the capacity of the Mahaiwe presents exciting opportunities and will challenge staff and Board to expand our creativity and our reach.”

About the Mahaiwe: Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,500 events and welcomed over half a million people through its doors. More than 20,000 students from 68 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe's school-time performances and residencies. For more information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

About the Barr Foundation: The Barr Foundation's mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets of \$1.7 billion, and has contributed more than \$838 million to charitable causes. For more information, visit barrfoundation.org or follow @BarrFdn on Twitter and Facebook.

About The Klarman Family Foundation: The Klarman Family Foundation seeks to identify areas of unmet need and advance solutions to addressing them. Underlying all of the Foundation's work is a passionate belief in the promise and importance of creative thinking, strategic leadership and strong organizations to help bring about change. As a way to learn and create greater impact, the Foundation values acting in partnership with other funders. Its work spans regionally, nationally and internationally and focuses on advancing understanding of the biological basis of health and illness; supporting the global Jewish community and State of Israel; expanding access to vital services and enrichment opportunities in Greater Boston; and ensuring a healthy democracy. Established in 1990 by Beth and Seth Klarman, the Foundation is located in Boston, MA. For more information, visit klarmanfoundation.org.

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