The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater’s year-round activities.
The Public has always been devoted to making theater that matters, that helps bind our community together by connecting us to the great issues and challenges of our time.

Public Works, a major program of The Public Theater, seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators. Public Works deliberately blurs the line between professional artists and community members, creating theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well.

Working with partner organizations in all 5 boroughs, Public Works invites community members to take classes, attend performances, and join in the creation of ambitious works of participatory theater.

Pictured: the company of THE TEMPEST. Photo by Joan Marcus.
STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORM THE BEDROCK OF PUBLIC WORKS.

1. BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER is a branch of the New York City Parks Department. With extensive resources for youth and seniors, the center offers a vibrant space to pursue both artistic and athletic activities.

2. CASITA MARIA CENTER FOR ARTS & EDUCATION is the oldest Latino charity in New York City, founded in 1934. The South Bronx-based community arts and educational organization presents diverse, contemporary visual and performing arts and education programming for all ages.

3. CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE IN SUNSET PARK is a neighborhood-based social service organization in Brooklyn. CFL’s comprehensive services in counseling, employment, education, the arts, and recreation engage more than 16,000 children and adults each year at 8 community locations.

4. CHILDREN’S AID provides comprehensive support to children in targeted New York City neighborhoods. The organization aims to connect young people and their families with the tools they need to learn, grow, and become leaders of their own lives.

5. DOMESTIC WORKERS UNITED is a city-wide, workers-led movement of Caribbean, Latina and African nannies, housekeepers, and elderly caregivers in New York, organizing for power, respect, and fair labor standards in the domestic industry.

6. DREAMYARD provides transformative arts education for Bronx youth through school-based and out-of-school programs and supports young people as they work toward higher learning, meaningful careers, and social action.

7. THE FORTUNE SOCIETY is a nonprofit social service and advocacy organization founded in 1967. Its mission is to support successful reentry and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities.

8. MILITARY RESILIENCE FOUNDATION works to create opportunities for men and women who have served in the military to engage in community-based events that honor their unique experiences, while also allowing them to become part of a shared narrative.
THEATER HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES.

Pictured: Darius de Haas and the company of AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.
WE'RE INVITING THE WHOLE CITY IN TO CELEBRATE THEMSELVES.
OUR APPROACH IS FOUNDED ON A
360° TRANFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THEATER:
OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE.
PUBLIC WORKS IS ANIMATED BY THE IDEA THAT THEATER IS A PLACE OF POSSIBILITY WHERE THE BOUNDARIES THAT SEPARATE US FROM EACH OTHER IN THE REST OF LIFE CAN FALL AWAY.
WE COLLABORATE WITH EACH PARTNER ORGANIZATION TO CREATE ONGOING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MASTER CLASSES
IMPROVISATION
ACTING CLASSES
CHARACTER BUILDING
MUSICAL THEATER
DANCE & MOVEMENT
SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOPS
PLAY READINGS
DISCUSSIONS
PHYSICAL THEATER
AUDITIONS
COMMUNITY CHOIR
PLAYWRITING

Pictured: Naomi Pierre rehearsing AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.
The Bronx is The Public, Queens is The Public, Brooklyn is The Public—
the idea of The Public is that it’s the people’s theater.

Jason Duchin, DreamYard
AFFINITY GROUPS AND POTLUCKS OFFER SPACE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

MONTHLY POTLUCKS
COMMUNITY CHOIR
COMMUNITY CLASS SHAREINGS
AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Pictured: Ella Evans and Anthony Michael Parmer rehearsing AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.
ACTivate is the newest program in Public Works that puts community in the artistic driver’s seat. ACTivate stands for ARTIST, CITIZEN, THEATER MAKER and explores what it means to create theater as a “citizen artist” in New York City and the world. The program began in 2016 with an original piece called TROY, inspired by Euripides’ The Trojan Women, in which a neighborhood is reckoning with the devastating loss of one of their own. Our ensemble interviewed everyday New Yorkers about family, memory, loss, and hard won joy in order to explore the way grief affects an entire community. Though each production is created differently, ACTivate follows the artistic impulse of the community ensemble, who engage in every aspect of the creative process.

ACTivate Cast Member

ACTIVATE

Pictured: the company of TROY. Photo by Jonathan Key.
PUBLIC WORKS AIMS TO RESTORE & BUILD COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH THEATER – BOTH PERFORMING IT AND EXPERIENCING IT – TO REMIND US THAT WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.
THE FIRST FIVE PUBLIC WORKS PAGEANTS FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY CAMEO GROUPS FROM ALL OVER NEW YORK CITY, INCLUDING:

- **516** Community Ensemble Members
- **10** Martial Artists
- **11** Motorcycle Bikers
- **141** Choir Singers
- **1** Dog
- **5** Puppeteers
- **1** Bubble Artist
- **26** Hip Hop Dancers
- **16** Bhangra Dancers
- **17** Brass Band Players
- **17** Youth Symphony Players
- **7** Sesame Street Performers
- **3** Park Rangers
- **1** Postal Carrier
- **17** ASL/Deaf Performers
- **37** Ballet Dancers
- **2** Chinese Lions
- **3** Taxi Drivers
- **16** Mexican Folk Dancers
- **6** Flamenco Dancers
- **8** African Drummers
- **12** Drum Line Players
- **9** Can Can Dancers
- **1** Lion Puppet
- **12** Taiko Drummers
- **6** Dabka Dancers
- **3** Lucha Libre Wrestlers
- **1** Bear

Pictured: the company of THE WINTER'S TALE. Photo by Joan Marcus.
PRODUCTIONS


THE TEMPEST 2013
THE WINTER’S TALE 2014
THE ODYSSEY 2015
TWELFTH NIGHT 2016
AS YOU LIKE IT 2017
Pictured: Christopher Fitzgerald and the company of THE WINTER’S TALE. Photo by Joan Marcus.

Music and Lyrics by Todd Almond
Choreography by Chase Brock
Conceived and Directed by Lear deBessonet

Pictured: Christopher Fitzgerald and the company of THE WINTER’S TALE. Photo by Joan Marcus.
THE ODYSSEY

Book, Music & Lyrics by Todd Almond
Choreography by Lorin Latarro
Conceived and Directed by Lear deBessonet
PRODUCTIONS

Pictured: Jose Llana, Nikki M. James, and the company of TWELFTH NIGHT. Photo by Joan Marcus.

Conceived by Kwame Kwei-Armah and Shaina Taub
Music & Lyrics by Shaina Taub
Choreography by Lorin Latarro
Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah
AS YOU LIKE IT

Adapted by Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery
Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub
Choreography by Sonya Tayeh
Directed by Laurie Woolery
THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN BUILT ON THE PASSIONATE BELIEF THAT THE ACT OF CREATING THEATER IS, AT ITS BEST,

― Emily Lim, National Theatre

AN ACT OF OPENNESS & CHANGE, UNITY & JOY.

Pictured: the company of THE ODYSSEY. Photo by Joan Marcus.
CURRENT PUBLIC WORKS PARTNERS INCLUDE DALLAS THEATER CENTER IN COLLABORATION WITH SMU MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE, AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE IN LONDON.

“THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN DALLAS’S HISTORY. THE NARRATIVE OF PUBLIC WORKS IN NEW YORK IS THAT OF A CITY THAT CHAMPIONS DIVERSITY AND ACCESS. SO WHAT KIND OF CITY DOES DALLAS WANT TO BECOME?

WE BELIEVE PUBLIC WORKS DALLAS WILL HELP TO IGNITE AND INSPIRE THAT CONVERSATION ACROSS OUR YOUNG CITY AND BECOME AN IMPORTANT VEHICLE FOR OUR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT THIS KIND OF APPROACH TO MAKING ART.” – CLYDE VALENTIN, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC WORKS DALLAS

“PUBLIC WORKS SEATTLE HAS NOT ONLY OPENED OUR DOORS TO NEW ARTISTS AND NEW AUDIENCES, IT HAS OPENED UP A NEW POSSIBILITY FOR THE KIND OF WORK WE CAN CREATE AT SEATTLE REP – WORK THAT RECOGNIZES AND AMPLIFIES THE CREATIVE POWER IN EACH ONE OF US AND CENTERS THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITY ON OUR STAGES.” – BRADEN ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE

“AS WE THOUGHT ABOUT BRINGING THE MODEL TO LONDON, SOMETHING THAT REALLY STRUCK US ABOUT PUBLIC WORKS WAS THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIP AND THE FACT THAT IT’S SUCH A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT THAT’S MADE TO THE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE INDIVIDUALS. I’M HERE IN NEW YORK SEEING PUBLIC WORKS IN ITS FIFTH YEAR AND IT’S SO BEAUTIFUL TO SEE THE JOURNEYS THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON.” – EMILY LIM, DIRECTOR OF PERICLES, NATIONAL THEATRE – PUBLIC ACTS

THE PUBLIC WORKS MODEL IS EXPANDING TO THEATERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND IN EUROPE.

“TOGETHER, WE ARE WORKING TO BUILD A CULTURE WHERE THEATER BELONGS TO EVERYONE.”

"Every year I see all the Public Works performances. Those are the only nights of my year where I am guaranteed joy. And it's because I am watching human spirits soar in collaboration with each other."

— Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director, The Public Theater

Pictured: the company of THE TEMPEST. Photo by Joan Marcus.