PITTSBURGH, PA (June 14, 2017)— National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than $82 million to fund local arts projects across the country in the NEA’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of $10,000 to Bricolage to support a world-premiere immersive theater production created in collaboration with Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh as part of its Carnegie Nexus initiative. The NEA received 1,728 Art Works applications and will make 1,029 grants ranging from $10,000 to $100,000. 

“The arts reflect the vision, energy, and talent of America’s artists and arts organizations,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support organizations such as Bricolage in serving their communities by providing excellent and accessible arts experiences.”

Bricolage’s new immersive production, set to run from October 13 to November 19, is designed to alter how modern audiences interact with cultural institutions. Heavily sensory-based and intimate, the piece will take place at Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History. Participants will embark on a personalized experience at the intersections of art and science, exploring public spaces in new ways and navigating behind-the-scenes areas normally off limits to traditional museum visitors.

“We are humbled and incredibly grateful to receive our first NEA grant in support of our adventurous project,” said Bricolage Producing Artistic Director Tami Dixon. “This work aims to deliver an experience that will give unprecedented access to our audience into the deep recesses of the museums and leave them with a profoundly personal connection to both art and human history.”

Jo Ellen Parker, president of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, also expressed enthusiasm for the project and the grant award.

“The museums look forward to working with Bricolage to develop an immersive production that has the potential to set a new standard for participative experiences in the theater and museum fields. We believe the project has much to teach us, and, most importantly, great potential benefits for the audiences for who will join us on this journey.”
Creative Team
Jeffrey Carpenter – Director / Co-Creator
Gab Cody – Lead Writer / Co-Creator
Tami Dixon – Director / Co-Creator
Sam Turich – Director / Co-Creator

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use #NEASpring17. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov

Bricolage Mission and Vision Statement
Bricolage envisions theater not as a passive experience, but as a vehicle for heightened involvement for artist and audience alike. By combining different artistic mediums, nourishing local talent, producing provocative work, and facilitating audience engagement, Bricolage seeks to revitalize live performance for a new era.

The word Bricolage means “making artful use of what is at hand.” What excites this company is the connection and interaction between seemingly disparate elements, and the potential for these components to resonate as one cohesive event. “What’s at hand” is Pittsburgh’s changing landscape, its plentiful human and material resources, and the salient political, cultural, and ethical issues they encounter and react to each day.

Their approach encourages artists to take the creative risks necessary to create full-blooded, high-quality theatrical experiences that challenge audiences to engage in new ways, react, and express openly their opinions about our work – to have a stake in the creative discussion.

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