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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Baltimore Center Stage to Receive Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Theater Announces 2019 Mobile Unit Tour backed by NEA Funding*

**Baltimore, MD**---Baltimore Center Stage has been awarded a 2019 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the organization announced today. The agency received more than 1,600 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking, and Baltimore Center Stage has received \$40,000 in support of the theater's Mobile Unit production of *Antigone* and its tour throughout Maryland in February and March.

"Our Mobile Unit provides vital, high-quality theater in a most unique and immersive fashion to often underserved and overlooked communities", said Michael Ross, Baltimore Center Stage Executive Director. "We are so grateful that the National Endowment for the Arts recognizes its value and has awarded funding."

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved more than \$27 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. "The arts enhance our communities and our lives, and we look forward to seeing these projects take place throughout the country, giving Americans opportunities to learn, to create, to heal, and to celebrate," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

With *Antigone*, Baltimore Center Stage presents a freshly reimagined production of the timeless Sophocles drama featuring original poetry by the 2016 National Poetry Slam champion (and Baltimorean), Lady Brion. Center Stage's Mobile Unit, the centerpiece of the theater's community programming endeavors, brings theater vitality and engaging, thoughtful scopes of works directly to a vast array of patrons across the state of Maryland.

Beginning February 19, the Mobile Unit will present *Antigone* at the Sandtown-Winchester Senior Center, YO! Baltimore, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The House of Ruth, The Jessup Correctional Facility, Earl's Place, The Weinberg Housing and Resource Center, Health Care for the Homeless, and at public libraries and schools in several counties, among other venues. The tour will conclude with



five performances inside Baltimore Center Stage's intimate 99-seat Bernard Black Box on March 14-17.

For more information on *Antigone*, please contact the Baltimore Center Stage press office or visit our website at [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org). For more information on the National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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**About Baltimore Center Stage**

Designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of our communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra and Executive Director Michael Ross. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Center Stage is led by our core values—chief among them being Access For All. Our mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to our Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.