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Ensemble Theatre Artistic Director Honored for Regional Arts Impact

CINCINNATI (March 12, 2019) – D. Lynn Meyers, The Ruth Dennis Sawyer/Mary Taft Mahler Producing Artistic Director at Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, is being honored by ArtsWave with the 2018 Sachs Fund Prize at a reception held the evening of Monday, March 18, 2019 at Ensemble Theatre.

The Rosa F. and Samuel B. Sachs Fund Prize is made possible through an endowed gift to ArtsWave in 1929, a bequest from the late Samuel B. Sachs to honor outstanding accomplishments in the arts — which includes visual arts, music, theatre, dance, literature, sculpture and architecture. Over the years, the Sachs Fund Prize has recognized individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Cincinnati, bringing distinction to themselves and the region through their work. Previous recipients include Zaha Hadid, Leah Stewart, Phyllis Weston, Stephen Sondheim, Shepard Fairey, James Conlon, Kathy Wilson, Jim Borgman and Jay Chatterjee.

The Sachs Fund Prize Committee, led by ArtsWave Life Trustee Richard Rosenthal, decided early on not to make this a competitive process with a call for nominations and/or applications. Rather, using the MacArthur Foundation's "genius grants" as a model, ArtsWave assembles a group of this region's most knowledgeable leaders in the areas of theater, music, dance, architecture, visual arts, photography and literature to select the individual who, in their combined estimation, best meets the criteria for this award.

"We are delighted to honor Lynn Meyers with the 2018 Sachs Fund Prize," said ArtsWave President and CEO Alecia Kintner. "She's been a trailblazer in her commitment to Ensemble's neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine, to theater with a social conscience, and to inclusive arts education. Her work as a casting director for commercial films has also helped build Cincinnati's reputation as a place where creativity thrives and artistic talent is abundant."

About D. Lynn Meyers

D. Lynn Meyers is in her twenty-third season at Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, where she holds the endowed position as The Ruth Dennis Sawyer/Mary Taft Mahler Artistic Director Producing Artistic Director. She has directed over 80 world and regional premieres, including "The Legend of Georgia McBride," "Hands on a Hardbody," "Detroit '67," "I Am My Own Wife," "Next to

Normal," and recently the world premieres of "Cinderella, After Ever After," "James and Annie" and "The Dancing Princesses."

She has directed Off-Broadway at the York Theatre with Marsha Norman's "Traveler in the Dark" and James McClure's "Max and Maxie." Lynn has directed extensively throughout the U.S. and Canada. She began her career as the Associate Artistic Director at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. In addition to her directing work, she is a member of the Casting Society of America, having cast for PBS, CBS, BBC, HBO, MTM, Paramount, and MGM.

Lynn's favorite feature credits include serving as Location Casting Director for "The Shawshank Redemption" and recently "Carol," "Miles Ahead," "The Goat," "The Public" and, currently, "Dry Run."

Lynn was named one of four finalists for the Zelda Fichandler National Award in 2011 and is a past recipient of the YWCA Career Woman of Achievement Award and the 2018 Women Who Means Business Award from Cincinnati Business Courier.

The presentation of the 2018 Sachs Fund Prize to D. Lynn Meyers comes during this year's ArtsWave Community Campaign, chaired by Cincinnati Bell President & CEO Leigh Fox. At the March 18 reception, ArtsWave will honor individuals who have made a planned gift commitment to ArtsWave. The 2019 ArtsWave Community Campaign relies on donations made by nearly 40,000 residents and almost 400 companies throughout the region and runs through April 30.

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About ArtsWave:

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the lead planner, promoter and fundraiser for the arts. Its roots stem back to the late 1920s when the Cincinnati Taft family provided initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become the first united arts fund in the nation and in the mid-1970s, the first organization to initiate workplace giving for the arts. ArtsWave continues to innovate while leading, as illustrated by its No. 1 rank nationally in community arts fundraising; coordination of a sector-wide Blueprint for Collective Action; piloting of new technologies to maximize arts engagement; and development of resources for the arts.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a ripple effect of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2018, ArtsWave raised more than \$12 million for the region's arts, marking its fifth year in a row of this funding magnitude. ArtsWave remains the largest community campaign for the arts throughout the country, both in total contributions and number of donors. In addition, the organization partners with the Cincinnati USA Regional Tourism Network to fund an additional \$1 million for arts marketing, grants and services.