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**Lantern Theater Company Receives Grant
From Forman Family Fund
In Support of ILLUMINATION**

Lantern Theater Company is pleased to announce it has received a \$15,000 grant from the Nessa Forman, David Forman, Eleanor and Solomon Forman Family Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation in support of *Illumination*, the Lantern's education outreach program.

Lantern Theater Company established *Illumination* in 2003 to educate and to engage local underserved students using dramatic texts and theatrical techniques. From the outset, the goal was to enhance and augment the work of their regular classroom teachers by focusing on improving the students' critical thinking and analytical skills as well as giving them opportunities for creative expression. *Illumination* operates in three vital ways: outreach in area schools, matinee performances for area students, and after-school programs.

This grant will support the Lantern's curricular-focused outreach residencies in Philadelphia schools. Through continuing partnerships with local teachers, the Lantern provides multiple units of in-school residencies, creating customized curriculums providing lessons designed to build the students' creative expression, self-confidence, and comprehension of assigned material and vocabulary. Rather than solely focusing on theater appreciation, the Lantern's innovative residencies take existing curricular materials from local English classes and use the tools and techniques of the theatrical form to enhance student understanding and appreciation of the assigned material.

The target student populations of *Illumination* are high school students from the Philadelphia neighborhoods of Center City, Olney, North Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, Germantown, and West Philadelphia. According to statistics provided by the City of Philadelphia, 70% of the Lantern's residency students are economically disadvantaged, including students at the Lantern's current year-round residency partners: Parkway Center City High School, the Academy at

Palumbo, and the W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences. During the 2015/16 season the Lantern plans to reach approximately 800 local underserved students through curricular residencies at these three partner schools alone, and expects to serve more than 3,000 students overall through *Illumination*.

The Nessa Forman, David Forman, Eleanor and Solomon Forman Family Fund, a Designated Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, supports Southeastern Pennsylvania nonprofits serving young people aged 11 to 18 offering in-school or out-of-school-time programs that address one of the following areas: Photography; Architectural Drawing and Architecture; and Written Arts. The Fund was established through the estate of Nessa R. Forman, former V.P. for Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at WHYY and former Arts and Leisure Editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin. She was a passionate advocate for arts education.

The Lantern is one of six organizations to be awarded a grant from the Fund. The other recipients in the Written Arts category include ArtWell's "We the Poets" program, Mighty Writers' "The Mighty Academy" Program, and Philadelphia Young Playwrights' "Paula Vogel Mentors Project." The grant recipients underwent a competitive application process, with screening by a committee that included representatives of The Philadelphia Foundation, the William Penn Foundation, the Barra Foundation and alumni of YOUTHadelphia, the youth philanthropy committee of The Philadelphia Foundation.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is committed to an authentic and intimate exploration of the human spirit in its choice of classics, modern, and original works. The Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, educating audience members about artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. The Lantern has received 88 Barrymore Award nominations, winning 19 times including the 2009 Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. Lantern Theater Company has been in residence at St. Stephen's Theater at 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia since 1996, managing the performance space and developing it into an affordable multi-purpose performing arts venue. For more information, please visit www.lanterntheater.org.

About The Philadelphia Foundation

Since 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation has been committed to improving the quality of life in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. It links those with financial resources to those who serve societal needs. The Foundation grows the more than 900 charitable funds established by its donors and distributes about \$20 million annually in grants and scholarships to about 1,000 effective nonprofit organizations. Through this support, the Foundation builds healthy communities, strengthens children and families, advances economic opportunities and enhances culture and recreation. For more information, please visit www.philadfound.org.