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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing:

**City Theatre to Receive \$10,000 grant from the
National Endowment for the Arts**

Pittsburgh, PA (December 15, 2016). **National Endowment for the Arts** Chairman **Jane Chu** has approved more than \$30 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$10,000 to **City Theatre** for their production of ***The Royale*** by Marco Ramirez. The Art Works category focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"The arts are for all of us, and by supporting organizations such as City Theatre, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer."

"City Theatre is honored to be again supported by the National Endowment for the Arts," said **Managing Director James McNeel**, who worked at the NEA earlier in his career. "I know first-hand how seriously and carefully the grant selection process is conducted, and that the panels are laser-focused on the artistic merit and excellence of the projects before them. We are thrilled to be recognized for our work and to receive recognition from this critical public agency that does so much to elevate and celebrate the artists and arts organizations that create the cultural fabric of our country."

This grant from the NEA will help to support City Theatre's production of ***The Royale*** by Marco Ramirez. Inspired by the true story of trail-blazing boxer Jack Johnson, the play follows one man's quest for victory against all odds. ***The Royale*** shows Jackson's physical, mental, and emotional conditioning as he prepares to take on a white boxer with the hope of becoming the undisputed world champion during the height of the Jim Crow era. Engagement and outreach activities will include community panels, a Pay-What-You-Want performance, talkbacks, and more. The show runs on City Theatre's mainstage January 21 through February 12, 2017. Tickets and more information available at CityTheatreCompany.org.

City Theatre is now in its 42nd season. Located in the historic South Side, City Theatre is Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights including Daniel Beaty, Jessica Dickey, Christopher Durang, Michael Hollinger, Willy Holtzman, Tarell Alvin

McCraney, and Madeleine George. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tracy Brigden, Managing Director James McNeel, and the Board of Directors, City Theatre's mission is to provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience. CityTheatreCompany.org

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