



American Repertory Theater
64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138
617.495.2668 TEL
617.495.1705 FAX
617.547.8300 TICKETS
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

For Immediate Release: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Contact: Rebecca Curtiss 617.496.2000 x8841 | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER'S MAY 8 GALA HONORED HARVARD PRESIDENT LAWRENCE S. BACOW AND ADELE FLEET BACOW FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

**Included Performances by Poet Shoshana Bean, Isabella Lopez, Tracy K. Smith,
and Davóne Tines**

[Images available for Download](#)

Cambridge, MA—The **American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.)** at Harvard University celebrated Harvard President **Lawrence S. Bacow** and **Adele Fleet Bacow** for their impact on the arts at Harvard and beyond at the theater's annual gala last Monday, May 8. A.R.T. supporters and friends gathered at Harvard University's Bright-Landry Hockey Center where the A.R.T. achieved its fundraising goals in support of the theater's mission to expand the boundaries of theater through its artistic productions and educational offerings.

David E. & Stacey L. Goel and **Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory** served as co-chairs of the event honoring the Bacows. "Together, they've dedicated their lives to advancing higher education, while promoting diversity and inclusion, and their leadership has had a transformative effect on the Greater Boston area," said Andrew Ory, Chair of the A.R.T. Board of Trustees. "They're staunch advocates for the advancement of creative expression, and they have an unwavering belief in the transformative power of theater to bring people together and build bridges across communities. They understand the essential role the arts play in education, and the importance of providing access to the arts for everyone."

"Theater always tells a story, a life lesson, stories of love, family, pivotal moments in life are on history and key issues of the day. Theater addresses the difficult decisions that arise in life and attempts to resolve them," said Adele Fleet Bacow. "Great theater, I think, inspires us to be our best selves," adds Lawrence S. Bacow.

The Bacows were presented with an original painting by Irma Guerra, a teen artist affiliated with Artists for Humanity where Adele Fleet Bacow is a Director. Tracy K. Smith, Former U.S. Poet Laureate and Professor of English and of African and African American Studies & Susan S., Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute performed a poem entitled "Make of Yourself an Instrument of Day" composed in their honor.

Lawrence S. Bacow is completing his term as Harvard's 29th President. "It's an incredible privilege to lead an institution which has something as precious as the A.R.T.," he remarked.

"I'm incredibly pleased that the first building that we started on my watch here at Harvard is for the arts, for the A.R.T., a new home for the A.R.T. that I think is worthy of its stature. The new A.R.T. will help us to anchor Harvard's presence in Allston. My vision for Allston has always been that it should be a hotbed of creativity: creativity in science, creativity in engineering, creativity in management, entrepreneurship, and with thanks to the A.R.T., also creativity in the arts."

To celebrate the Bacows' impact, a video tribute was prepared that included comments and congratulations from Patti Bellinger, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, Kenneth I. Chenault, Drew Gilpin Faust, Claudine Gay, Alan M. Garber, Stephen Greenblatt, Matthew Teitelbaum, Anne Hawley, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Robin Kelsey, Katie Lapp, Bill Lee, Jill Medvedow, Penny Pritzker, Senator Jack Reed, and L. Rafael Reif & Mrs. Christine Reif.

Gala Co-Chair David E. Goel spoke about his family's support of A.R.T.'s plans for its future in Allston. "Stacey and I are ardent admirers and supporters of the performing arts and are particularly excited to be supporters of the American Repertory Theater," said Goel. "We believe that the performing arts have an urgent role in society and in education, and we are fervently committed to ensuring their creative and robust growth and their accessibility to artists and audiences for generations to come. We were drawn to the A.R.T. by its unique role in the pedagogy life of Harvard and in its community building efforts. Stacey and I could not be more thrilled to deepen our involvement behind the scenes to ensure that the ART continues to play a major role in Harvard's future, and indeed in the life of our country."

Award-winning musician, poet, and producer and A.R.T. Trustee Tim Hall and Artistic Producer Mark Lunsford served as co-hosts of the evening, which was directed by Lunsford and American Repertory Theater Associate Artistic Director Dayron J. Miles and included Harvard alumnus Davóne Tines AB '09 (***The Black Clown***) performing an original work incorporating "This Little Light of Mine." Entertainment also included ***Evita*** cast member Isabella Lopez performing "Buenos Aires" from the A.R.T.'s upcoming revival production, Grammy and Tony Award-nominated vocalist Shoshana Bean performing "She Used to be Mine" from ***Waitress***, which was developed and premiered at A.R.T. in 2015, and members from Harvard's signature jazz a cappella group The Din & Tonics performing a musical arrangement of "Genealogy of Revolution" from ***We Live in Cairo***, which was developed and premiered at A.R.T. in 2019.

The gala's live auction included a private tango workshop with ***Evita***'s award-winning co-choreographers Valeria Solomonoff and Emily Maltsby, platinum passes to the 2023 Boston Calling Music Festival and tickets to the national tour of ***Jagged Little Pill*** at the Citizens Bank Opera House, a behind-the-scenes package for the upcoming world-premiere of ***Becoming a Man***, dinner with members of the A.R.T. senior artistic staff and an opening night subscription package, an insider experience for the upcoming world premiere musical ***Gatsby***, and tickets to the premiere screening of ***Waitress*** at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Additional notable guests at the event included A.R.T. Trustee Paul Buitenhuis and Katie Buitenhuis; Harvard President-Elect Claudine Gay; A.R.T. Trustee David E. Goel & Stacey L. Goel; A.R.T. Trustee Ann Gund and Graham Gund; Barr Foundation Co-Founders Amos & Barbara Hostetter; MIT President Sally Kornbluth, Brandeis University President Ron Liebowitz; Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation Trustees Jeannie & Jonathan Lavine; Peggy Newell and Harvard Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Development Brian K. Lee; Former Harvard Corporation member Joe O'Donnell & Katherine O'Donnell, Senior Fellow of the Harvard Corporation Penny Pritzker, and Tracy & Leon Palandjian.

Special thanks to Artists for Humanity, Boston Beer Company, Boston Calling Music Festival, The Catered Affair, Harvard University Department of Athletics, Martignetti Companies, Rafanelli Events, and Winston Flowers.

ABOUT LAWRENCE S. BACOW & ADELE FLEET BACOW

Lawrence S. Bacow is the 29th President of Harvard University.

Widely regarded as one of the nation's preeminent higher education leaders, President Bacow has devoted his tenure to advancing Harvard's academic mission and to encouraging interdisciplinary efforts to tackle complex global challenges such as the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a passionate advocate for the free exchange of ideas, for the interests of international students and scholars, and for the promise of a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive University that considers its future in the context of its past. Under his leadership, the Allston campus has changed and grown in important ways, including steps to bring the American Repertory Theater to the neighborhood.

From 2001 to 2011, President Bacow served as president of Tufts University following 24 years on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he held the Lee and Geraldine Martin Professorship of Environmental Studies and served as Chair of the Faculty (1995-97) and as Chancellor (1998-2001). He received an S.B. in economics from MIT, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a Ph.D. in public policy from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Prior to his election to the Harvard presidency in February 2018, he served as a member of the Harvard Corporation (2011-18), a Hauser Leader-in-Residence at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2014-18), and a President-in-Residence at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (2011-14).

Adele Fleet Bacow is the President and Founder of Community Partners Consultants.

As President of Community Partners Consultants, Adele Fleet Bacow offered extensive expertise in community cultural development, urban planning, economic development, design, and the arts. She brought the public and private sectors together in unlikely collaborations to revitalize communities. Many of these lessons are presented in her book, *Designing the City: A Guide for Advocates and Public Officials*. Previously she was Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Government Land Bank and served as Director of Design and Development at the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, receiving a Federal Design Achievement Award for her work.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in 2008 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in 2022.

The Loeb Drama Center where the A.R.T. performs is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Boston and Cambridge. We pay respect to the people of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#), past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

MISSION

The American Repertory Theater is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner.

VISION

We focus on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. We believe that by engaging our hearts, minds and bodies, theater has the power to heal and imagine collective pathways forward.

We commit to advancing public health in our practice and our programming, recognizing that racism in America is a national public health crisis. Our new home in Allston will be a breathable and healthy building envisioned as a town hall for the twenty-first century. Inspired by the model of a teaching hospital, the building will be a vibrant center for research, experiential pedagogy, and performance.

We build community with our audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. We affirm and celebrate a multitude of perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our country and world. We are dedicated to making a welcoming and accessible space for people of any identity, background, or ability.

VALUES

We hold the institution and each other responsible and accountable for living our shared values. There is no hierarchy to these values; they are all equally important and interrelated. We acknowledge that as an institution we must devote time to implementing and sustaining these values:

We center anti-racism

Habituate anti-racist practices in our policies, structure and culture.

We lead with inquiry

Ask questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in our never-ending journey of learning and growth

We believe in collaboration

Work together with trust and respect to unlock collective creativity

We practice adaptability

Challenge assumptions and create capacity to support "next" practices

We embrace regenerative practice

Promote the health and vitality of our planet, our organization, and each other

HONORS & AWARDS

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for ***All the Way***(2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for ***Pippin***(2013) and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and eighteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Additional Broadway productions include ***SIX***; ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress***; ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; and ***Finding Neverland***. Since their premieres in Cambridge, A.R.T. productions have also [gone on](#) to reach audiences Off-Broadway, on US National Tour, and at partner theaters across the country, as well as in London's West End, Tokyo, and Sydney. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentor students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club.

A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day. Current work includes collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment (to commission and develop a series of new works that address climate change and the environment), the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (to develop a [Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater](#)), and the Initiative for Racial Equity at Harvard Business School (to pilot the Program in Arts and Culture Organization Management).

ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

@AmericanRep

###