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**EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 @ 2PM**

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# CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY ON THE NEW HOME FOR THE AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER, THE DAVID E. AND STACEY L. GOEL CENTER FOR CREATIVITY & PERFORMANCE

**REGENERATIVELY-DESIGNED BUILDING TO INCLUDE  
INTERCONNECTED AND ADAPTABLE MULTI-USE SPACES  
THAT WILL SUPPORT CREATIVITY AND EMBRACE FUTURE CHANGE**

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**Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University**, led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., announced today that construction is underway on its new home at 175 N. Harvard Street in the Allston neighborhood of Boston.

A building to foster groundbreaking performance, public gathering, teaching, and international research, the **David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance** was designed by Haworth Tompkins (architect and design lead) and ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge (architect of record) in collaboration with theater and acoustic consultant Charcoalblue. Shawmut Design and Construction serves as the project's construction manager.

"It's thrilling to see the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Performance & Creativity begin to rise at 175 N. Harvard Street," said **A.R.T. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus**. "From our new home, A.R.T. will be positioned to realize our vision to use the galvanizing power of theater to build a more compassionate citizenry. I'm grateful to our generous supporters and brilliant, innovative partners who helped us reach this milestone, and I invite our neighbors and audiences to come behind the scenes to see this construction process develop."

The David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance will contain interconnected, adaptable multi-use spaces designed to support creativity and embrace future change. The center will include two flexible performance venues—the West Stage, where large-scale productions will be produced, and the versatile and intimate East Stage—as well as light-filled, state-of-the-art rehearsal studios and teaching spaces, a spacious public lobby, and an outdoor performance yard to host ticketed and free programming. The center will also include dressing rooms, technical shops, and administrative offices for the organization, as well as a modest café.

The A.R.T.'s new home has been conceived and will be programmed to center community. It will be open to all during designated hours of operation, offering free Wi-Fi, food and beverage service, public restrooms, gathering spaces, indoor and outdoor public art and performance, and room rental opportunities.

Designed with a blend of environmental and social strategies to minimize embodied and operational carbon, maximize wellbeing, boost biodiversity, and enhance resiliency, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance embraces Harvard's ambitious sustainability priorities. The building is designed to achieve the Living Building Challenge core accreditation from the International Living Future Institute in recognition that it gives more to its environment than it takes.

Conceived through core principles of openness, artistic flexibility, collaboration, sustainability, and regenerative design, it will be constructed with laminate mass timber, reclaimed brick, and cedar cladding to minimize its lifetime carbon budget. The building's chilled water, hot water, and electric utilities will come from Harvard's new lower-carbon District Energy Facility. It will capture additional clean energy from rooftop solar panels and leverage natural ventilation to reduce energy usage and enhance occupant comfort. Additionally, a green roof and extensive plantings will aid stormwater attenuation while increasing biodiversity and occupant wellbeing.

The center is the first building in the US to be designed by the UK-based Haworth Tompkins, *Architects' Journal* 2022 and 2020 AJ100 Practice of the Year and winner of the Royal Institute of British Architects 2014 Stirling Prize for its design of Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, England. The award is presented to the architects of the building that has made the greatest contribution to the evolution of architecture in the past year. Haworth Tompkins was selected by the A.R.T. for its experience with sustainable design and urban development, as well as approaches to democratizing the theatergoing experience and to the role that theaters can play within their communities.

"Theater is about exploring our shared humanity in a space where people of all backgrounds come together and are invited to open their hearts," said **Haworth Tompkins Director Roger Watts**. "Through an inspiring and collaborative design process, our building aims to extend that open invitation to Allston and the wider world, and to provide a framework that supports the expansion of creative practices within a radical yet simple architecture of adaptable space, natural tactile materials, fresh air and light."

“From our earliest meetings, we have collaborated to create a series of spaces that are flexible, scalable, technically sophisticated, and, most importantly, welcoming and democratic to the audiences and artists who will inhabit them,” said **Owen Hughes, Director of theater and acoustic consultant Charcoalblue.**

“Working with Harvard, the A.R.T., and our design partners on this important community space draws on two of ARC’s core values: our passion for arts and culture and our commitment to providing carbon-neutral design. We look forward to opening night of the new center, and to continuing our creative collaboration with all those involved in bringing this inclusive new space to life.” said **Philip Laird, Principal, ARC.**

“We are honored to be leading the construction of the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance,” said **Kevin Sullivan, executive vice president of Shawmut Design and Construction’s New England region.** “This project exemplifies our deep commitment to the community. By prioritizing environmental sustainability and adaptable design, we are building a vibrant hub for creativity and connection that will serve the local area for years to come. Our shared goal of minimizing embodied and operational carbon, maximizing wellbeing, and enhancing resiliency ensures that this center will not only be a beacon for the arts but also a pioneering global model for sustainable construction.”

“This state-of-the-art building will bring us into a future full of creative potential,” said **Interim Harvard University President Alan Garber.** “David and Stacey stepped forward at an important moment for the A.R.T., giving generously not because of the strong foundation that already exists but because they see what is possible. The incredible community their vision sustains and expands will have a profound effect on arts and culture throughout our region.”

“The David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance will serve as a model for the next generation of cultural architecture through its adaptability and responsiveness as it achieves more with less intensive resources,” said **A.R.T. Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr.** “We look forward to audiences accompanying us on its journey to completion and are excited to welcome them to a building pulsing with creativity and community as we embark on A.R.T.’s next chapter.”

Construction of the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity and Performance will continue into 2026. Audiences are invited to follow the process on A.R.T.’s social media channels and its website. A.R.T. will announce the building’s official opening date in the future.

## **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. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus began her tenure in 2008 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in June 2022. A.R.T.’s mission is to expand the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as partner.

The A.R.T. focuses on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences, serving as a creative hub that has launched productions seen across the US and around the world. A.R.T. received 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. A.R.T.'s Tony Award-winning and nominated productions include ***1776; Jagged Little Pill; Waitress; Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812; All the Way; The Glass Menagerie; Pippin; Once; The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***. International productions include ***Waitress, Nice Fish, The Glass Menagerie*** (West End); ***Waitress, Pippin*** (Japan); ***Jagged Little Pill, Pippin*** (Australia); ***Sleep No More*** (China). ***Sleep No More*** currently runs in New York City.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many other distinguished awards including a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theatre Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. plays 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. is also engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day.

A.R.T. is dedicated to making great theater accessible to all. It builds community with its audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors, actively engaging 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.

Construction is ongoing for the A.R.T.'s new home, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance. Designed by Haworth Tompkins, the new center will include two flexible performance venues, rehearsal studios, teaching spaces, a spacious public lobby, and an outdoor performance yard designed to host ticketed and free programming. Porous and welcoming intentional architecture will galvanize creativity and collaboration and fuel the mission.

## **ABOUT HAWORTH TOMPKINS**

Haworth Tompkins is a British architectural studio, voted Building Design Architect of the Year and RIBA London Architect of the Year. Founded in 1991 by Graham Haworth and Steve Tompkins, the studio has an international reputation for theater design, the Liverpool Everyman Theatre winning the RIBA Stirling Prize for the best building of the year by a UK architect. Haworth Tompkins was part of the Gold Award UK winning team at the Prague Quadrennial and was chosen to exhibit theatre work at the Venice Biennale. Performance projects include the Royal Court, the Almeida temporary theatres at Kings Cross and Gainsborough Studios, Snape Maltings, the Young Vic Theatre (shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize), The

Egg at Bath, the Oxford North Wall, NT Future, Battersea Arts Centre, Bristol Old Vic, and Bridge Theatre. The studio has additionally won numerous major awards for its work on social housing, heritage, and higher education projects.

### **ABOUT ARC/ Architectural Resources Cambridge**

ARC / Architectural Resources Cambridge is a design firm that creates visionary spaces with the power to produce lasting change for people and communities. Our diverse and passionate team brings dynamic design, leading-edge sustainability practices, and an inclusive creative approach to every project. Clients are central to our process: they're trusted, long-term partners who play a key role in shaping spaces that move them forward. For over 55 years, we have partnered with leading organizations across arts and education to design spaces that yield spectacular results — bold, meaningful environments that inspire, endure, and challenge the world of today to aspire to a better tomorrow.

### **ABOUT CHARCOALBLUE**

London, New York and Melbourne-based theater and acoustics consultancy **Charcoalblue** has collaborated with Haworth Tompkins on dozens of projects around the world, including London's Young Vic, Liverpool Everyman, and the Dorfman at the National Theatre, as well as the Court Theatre in New Zealand and Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia. In North America, Charcoalblue's projects include the brand-new Perelman Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center, Chicago's Shakespeare Theatre and Steppenwolf, and Toronto's Massey Hall. Renowned for their technical virtuosity in cutting-edge flexible theatrical spaces, Charcoalblue brings a worldwide team to the ART project, providing unique and functional theatrical spaces, with superb acoustic qualities.

### **ABOUT SHAWMUT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Shawmut Design and Construction is a \$1.6 billion national construction management firm with a reputation for completing extremely complex and logistically challenging projects for the most high-profile clients in the industry. As a 100% employee-owned company, Shawmut has created a culture of ownership, proactive solution-making, and forward-thinking. Over eighty percent of its business comes from repeat clients, proving there is a strong focus on building lasting partnerships. Shawmut has 11 offices, including Boston, Worcester, Providence, New York, Los Angeles, and Miami. For more information, please visit [www.shawmut.com](http://www.shawmut.com).

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