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TYA Tour Development Collective
Katie Trzaska-Miller, Administrator
katie@michiganmaven.art
www.tyatourdevelopment.org

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Growing National Collective Funds Six New Works for Young Audiences

The TYA Tour Development Collective, a nationwide collective of performing arts venues and arts professionals, announces a successful second round of commissioning awards for new artistic work for families and young audiences.

The TYA Tour Development Collective (TYA TDC) is a network of 21 performing arts presenting organizations across the United States dedicated to supporting artists and companies in developing new work for youth and family audiences. The Collective's goal is to help position these projects for successful national touring in upcoming seasons. Since launching as a nine-venue pilot in 2025, the Collective has more than doubled in size, an expansion that underscores both the growing recognition of youth and family programming within the field and a shared commitment among presenters to invest in artists, even amid tight budgets and uncertain funding.

In the second funding cycle, 64 artists submitted applications to a competitive review process; 12 were chosen to present their plans to the Collective and ultimately six works were selected to receive support totalling \$139,000. The Collective members worked together to determine the artists they wished to commission and how to configure the available funds to provide significant financial support to each artist.

The commissioned artists and companies are:

All My Relations Collective – Brooklyn, NY
Dominic Moore-Dunson – Akron, OH
Honolulu Theatre for Youth – Honolulu, HI
Joy Play Heart Productions – Washington, D.C.
Manual Cinema – Chicago, IL
Sandglass Theater – Putney, VT

“Playhouse Square couldn't be prouder to be a founding and continuing member of the Collective” says Daniel Hahn, Vice President of Education at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. “Supporting the development of new touring work for families is essential not just for building our future audiences, but for the enrichment of today's children across the country.”

“This effort is putting real resources directly into artists' hands when they need them most. But these artists aren't just receiving financial backing to create ambitious, relevant work—they are gaining a dedicated team of funders, built-in touring partners, awareness in the marketplace, and a powerful network of advocates ready to

connect their art to communities across the country," adds Sarah McCarthy of Dandelion Artists, one of the two agents part of developing the concept.

The Collective is already seeing the intended results of the pilot year come to fruition. "Inlet Dance Theatre is grateful to be part of the first cycle of new works being developed through commissioning support by the TYA Tour Development Collective. The support of our commissioning partners has enabled us to leverage their resources to secure additional funding to support the entire production costs," says Bill Wade, Executive and Artistic Director of Inlet Dance Theatre. "Our new work, a dance theatre adaptation of Kobi Yamada's NY Times bestseller, "What Do You Do With A Problem?", is booked for a national tour beginning this coming fall. We are excited to see the work that emerges from the next cycle of commissioned work for young audiences."

Commissioning funds totalled \$74,000 in 2025 and \$139,000 in 2026; the number of participating venues more than doubled from 2025 to 2026.

Collective membership currently includes 21 venues from 16 states:

Alden Theater, McLean Community Center – McLean, VA

Brooks Center for the Performing Arts, Clemson University – Clemson, SC

Charleston Gaillard Center – Charleston, SC

City of Fort Collins Arts & Culture – Fort Collins, CO

Dayton Live – Dayton, OH

Des Moines Performing Arts – Des Moines, IA

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center – Appleton, WI

Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center – Auburn, AL

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – Urbana, IL

LaJolla Music Society – La Jolla, CA

Midwest Trust Center, Johnson County Community College – Overland Park, KS

Morrison Center for the Performing Arts – Boise, ID

New Victory Theater – New York, NY

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust – Pittsburgh, PA

Playhouse Square – Cleveland, OH

Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Costa Mesa, CA

Texas Performing Arts, University of Texas at Austin – Austin, TX

Walton Arts Center – Fayetteville, AR

Wharton Center for Performing Arts – East Lansing, MI

Wheeler Opera House – Aspen, CO

Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University – Bethlehem, PA

The third funding cycle of the TYA Tour Development Collective will launch in the fall of 2026 and is seeking additional Collective members and artists developing new work to tour in the 2028-2029 season. The deadline for venues to join the Collective is November 2, 2026; the application window for artists will open in December. Virtual information sessions will be held in the fall.

To learn more and sign up for Collective updates, interested venues, agents, artists, and touring companies should visit www.tyatourdevelopment.org.

Press inquiries should be directed to Katie Trzaska-Miller, at katie@michiganmaven.art. Press images and more information on the commissioned artists can be found in the [TYA TDC 2026 Press Kit](#). The Collective is administered by Michigan Maven Creative Associates.