



*Block Party is a program of Center Theatre Group*

Please read this guidelines document in its entirety before beginning your application.

BLOCK PARTY is an initiative focused on supporting and highlighting Los Angeles area theatres through the sharing of audiences, ideas, and resources.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **BLOCK PARTY**

Celebrating Los Angeles Theatre

BLOCK PARTY will provide three previously produced Los Angeles area productions with a re-mount production on the Kirk Douglas Theatre stage. Each of the three productions will run in a two week slot with twelve performances each (including two previews).

Center Theatre Group will support each show with a modest production budget and two weeks of paid rehearsal time. Depending on the needs of the actors, director, and team, rehearsals can take place during work hours or in the evenings. However, for the 3 days of tech and preview performances on each show, the actors, director, and design team will need to be fully available (day and night). Rehearsal space will be provided at either the Kirk Douglas Theatre, at the Center Theatre Group offices in Downtown L.A., or off-site.

Center Theatre Group will provide salaries for the actors, stage manager, and key creative team.

Examples of what can be included under creative team on the application include: director, assistant director, costume designer, set designer, lighting designer, projection designer, sound designer, hair/make-up designer\*, prop designer\*, composer, choreographer, fight choreographer, etc.

All actors will be placed on Actors' Equity Association LORT D contracts.

Under Center Theatre Group's Equity agreement there is not an option to add understudies or alternating casts as every cast member must be placed on a minimum two-week agreement.

Each of the three visiting companies will receive a \$2,000 company fee. This stipend is given to assist in covering travel costs, additional employee time, etc. Please see the Distribution of Funds section in these guidelines for more information.

Participants will work alongside Center Theatre Group's in-house marketing and communications teams to promote the productions.

\*CTG will be utilizing our in-house hair, wardrobe and prop support for Block Party productions, however, please note in your application if you had specialty designs in these areas.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Please email [BlockParty@CTGLA.org](mailto:BlockParty@CTGLA.org) if you have any questions regarding your production's eligibility or if you would like to request an eligibility exception.**

- Visiting Companies from the previous cycles of Block Party will not be considered for this year's Block Party.
- Theatre must be located and producing in the greater Los Angeles area including the following counties: Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Ventura County.
- There is a cast size cap of 15 total.
- Cast must be located in a 50-mile radius of the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Downtown Culver City.
- Theatre must have a track record of at least two fully produced productions, each with nine performances over three weeks or longer. "Fully produced" is defined as utilizing a full production team (i.e. director, designers, stage manager, etc.) and receiving review coverage.
- Submitted production must have opened between January 1, 2017 and May 11, 2018.
- The director, design team, and cast must be available for the remount. Theatres can note on their application if there is an issue and exceptions will be considered.

- Theatres must be 99-seat houses or lower regardless of budget size.
- Companies can only apply with one production. Please feel free to reach out to us to discuss if you are making decisions between multiple productions in your season.
- Due to tech time and budget constraints, traditional musicals will not be considered. We will consider shows with music accompanied by a small band of three musicians or fewer.
- We will consider theatres whose staff/Board of Directors have a Center Theatre Group connection, and we will ensure that the review process avoids conflicts of interest.

## SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

- For this year of Block Party we will have one round of applications. More information will be requested and feedback will be available for those companies invited as finalists.
- Budget size is not a selection criteria. Don't worry about the size of the budget; it's how you use it.
- It is important to Center Theatre Group that we maintain the integrity of the production. We want to make sure your show will play well on the Kirk Douglas Theatre stage and that the remounted production stays faithful to the initial design and concept.
- Our criteria includes:
  - **The company.** Given where the company is in its history, is this the right timing to highlight this company now? Are the leaders on the project committed, organized, and well-equipped to make this move, and would they work well with our staff (based upon their application materials)?
  - **The play** (as in, what is written on the page). Is there a reason to bring it to our audiences? Is this a playwright we would like to present and subject matter we think is important to explore?
  - **Diversity.** Do the play and the players represent the diverse landscape of Los Angeles? Diversity can mean (and is not limited to): ethnicity, age, gender, ability, theatrical style, etc.
  - **The team.** Are the designers and actors artists we want to get to know better or continue a relationship with?

- **Strength of marketing & press capabilities.** How strong was your theatre’s marketing plan? How did the production fare with the press? Was there any traction outside of reviews?
- **Technical compatibility.** Will the production elements transfer well to the Kirk Douglas Theatre stage?
- **Overall fit for Block Party.** Given the goals of the program, would this production be a good fit—taking all things into consideration?

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

ONLINE APPLICATION POSTMARK DEADLINE:  
May 11, 2018, MIDNIGHT

### **TIMELINE**

#### **April 12, 2018**

Applications available

#### **May 1, 2018**

7pm Information session for applicants at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Please RSVP through our website [www.CenterTheatreGroup.org](http://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org).

#### **May 11, 2018**

Online application postmark deadline

#### **May-June 2018**

Initial review period. A panel comprised of key Center Theatre Group staff from multiple departments will review applications. The panel, along with core Block Party team members, will select 6-8 finalists. Each application will have at least three reviewers.

#### **Week of June 25, 2018**

Theatre companies invited to finalists’ stage of the application process

#### **Week of July 9, 2018**

7pm Information session for finalists at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

#### **July 30, 2018**

Finalists’ online application postmark deadline

#### **August-September 2018**

Final review period. A smaller panel comprised of department leaders and artistic staff will review the 6-8 finalist applications and will have discussions with representatives from each production.

**Late September 2018**

Notification of three BLOCK PARTY Visiting Companies

**October 2018**

First production meeting and onboarding meeting for Visiting Companies

**November – April 2019**

Series of meetings with Center Theatre Group staff

**March 7-April 28, 2019**

Three BLOCK PARTY productions onstage at the Kirk Douglas Theatre

**PRODUCTION SCHEDULE****Slot 1**

1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal: February 19, 2019 (11 rehearsals)

Tech: March 3, 2019 (3 days)

1<sup>st</sup> preview: March 7, 2019 (2 previews)

Open: March 9, 2019 (10 performances)

Close: March 17, 2019

**Slot 2**

1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal: March 12, 2019 (11 rehearsals)

Tech: March 24, 2019 (3 days)

1<sup>st</sup> preview: March 28, 2019 (2 previews)

Open: March 30, 2019 (10 performances)

Close: April 7, 2019

**Slot 3**

1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal: April 2, 2019 (11 rehearsals)

Tech: April 14, 2019 (3 days)

1<sup>st</sup> preview: April 18, 2019 (2 previews)

Open: April 20, 2019 (10 performances)

Close: April 28, 2019

**COMPANY COMMITMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Selected theatres are required to attend an onboarding meeting and a production meeting with Center Theatre Group approximately in October 2018. Periodic meetings with our staff will be scheduled from approximately November through April of 2019.

A brief final evaluation is due to Center Theatre Group upon completion of the program. We'll provide details and format.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

Each selected company will receive a \$2,000 company fee separate from production support funds. The distribution of the company fee is contingent upon signing a Letter of Agreement with Center Theatre Group.

The majority of the company fee will be paid upon signature of a Letter of Agreement with Center Theatre Group after being selected for BLOCK PARTY and the remaining amount will be paid on opening night. At the close of Block Party, a final program evaluation, including details of how/where the funds will be allocated, is requested from each Visiting Company.

NOTE: All theatres are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors about the tax implications of these funds.

## **CENTER THEATRE GROUP OVERVIEW**

As one of the nation's most influential nonprofit theatre companies, Center Theatre Group proudly continues our 50-year tradition of using the art of theatre to broaden horizons and illuminate new perspectives. At the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Kirk Douglas Theatre, we entertain audiences with celebrated Broadway shows, thought-provoking stories, and adventurous new plays.

Over the past decade, we've commissioned 65 shows and produced 40 World premieres, making us one of the nation's leading producers of ambitious new works. Our interactive programs engage audiences across generations, demographics, and circumstance. And our award-winning education programs inspire the next generation of theatregoers, artists, and artisans.

We entertain. We create. We engage. We inspire. We put theatre at the center of it all.

Center Theatre Group commits to creating a safe space where the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion permeate all levels and all aspects of our work. We aim to attract, nurture, and retain staff in a supportive home where we can be our best selves. Because theatre is a cultural force with the capacity to transform the lives of individuals and society at large, we have a duty to celebrate our commonalities and embrace our differences in order to ensure that everyone has access to our work onstage, behind the scenes, and in the community.

### **Our Mission**

To serve the diverse audiences of Los Angeles by producing and presenting theatre of the highest caliber, by nurturing new artists, by attracting new audiences, and by developing youth outreach and arts education programs.

This mission is based on a belief that the art of theatre is a cultural force with the capacity to transform the lives of individuals and society at large.

[CenterTheatreGroup.org](http://CenterTheatreGroup.org)