

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE PARTNERS WITH D.C. WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER TOMMY WELLS TO HOST *THE D.C. JOB FAIR*

AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014, 10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater will open its doors for the fourth time to the D.C. community and partner with [Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells' office](#), along with local businesses, non-profits and government employment agencies, to host *The D.C. Job Fair* sponsored by Tommy Wells and Arena Stage **Friday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Mead Center** (1101 Sixth St., SW/Waterfront Metro). The three previous job fairs included partnerships with more than 30 participating organizations and served a combined total attendance of about 4,000 community members. This event features a new partnership with the [Office of Returning Citizens Affairs](#) (ORCA), which provides support and services to previously incarcerated persons.

“Arena Stage takes its role as a community partner seriously and we are pleased to welcome those seeking employment to job fairs hosted in our building,” comments Arena Stage Executive Producer **Edgar Dobie**. “The theater is a place of gathering and while in this case people are not seeking entertainment, they are seeking a form of enlightenment. Arena wants to be a part of making the community a better place and we feel helping connect people to the right jobs is an important step in that direction.”

“The District government must focus on growing the number of good jobs available to District residents,” comments **Wells**. “Whether that’s through fostering a great environment to start a business, incentivizing the hire of District residents or increasing access to job training and education, it is our responsibility to ensure that our unemployed and under-employed residents don’t stay that way.”

While the event is open to all District residents, this year’s job fair has focused on recruiting employers that have demonstrated willingness to work with our returning citizens. In response to this focus, Wells adds, “As Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety, I led the successful effort to pass legislation prohibiting employers from inquiring about an applicant’s criminal record history until a conditional offer of employment has been made. That legislation, commonly referred to as “ban the box,” has played a pivotal role in increasing employment opportunities for our returning citizens; this job fair is another critical resource to help them get back on track. Often, the first step towards getting your career going is the hardest to take; our goal is to make that first step a little easier.”

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Recruiting companies committed to be onsite include **Big Bus Tours, Building Futures, Capital Rail Constructors, Clark Construction, DC Central Kitchen, DC Job Corps, Department of Human Resources, Entertainment Cruises, Fort Myer Construction Corporation, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Hospitality Connections, Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, Nations Learning Center, Specialty Hospital & Nursing Center of Washington, United Planning Organization, U.S. Army and U.S. Postal Service.**

The event will commence with remarks by Dobie and Wells at 10:00 a.m.

In addition to partnering with the **Office of Returning Citizens Affairs (ORCA)**, *The D.C. Job Fair* will also feature onsite representation from **Bread for the City, Court Services and Offenders Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Department of Employment Services (DOES), Employment Justice Center (EJC) and UDC Community College Division of Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning** to assist attendees with employment search training. For additional information and the most up-to-date list of participating organizations please visit arenastage.org/jobfair.

Previous participants for *The D.C. Job Fair* have included Athena Consulting, CLP Resources, Comcast, Community Multi-Services, Inc., Community Services Foundation, CSX Railroad, Data Networks Corporation, D.C. Housing Authority Workforce Development Office, DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR), DC Water, Dress for Success, Entertainment Cruises, Forest City Washington, Gordon-Biersch Brewery Restaurant, Keany Produce, Living Classrooms, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, Safeway, Street Sense, Strive DC, Tallgrass Talent Group, The Graduate School USA, Trusted Solutions, U.S. Army, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Secret Service, United Planning Organization (UPO), UnitedHealthcare, Unity Health Care, VMT Education, Wal-Mart and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Employers wishing to participate should contact Patricia Joseph in the Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells at PJoseph@dccouncil.us or 202-724-8072.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Arena Stage impacts the lives of thousands of students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

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