

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 CHARLES ALLEN AND AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER ELISSA SILVERMAN TO HOST *THE D.C. JOB FAIR*

AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015, 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 fifth time to the D.C. community and partner with [Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen](#) and [At-Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman](#), along with local businesses, non-profits and government employment agencies, to host *The D.C. Job Fair* sponsored by Allen, Silverman and Arena Stage Friday, February 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mead Center (1101 Sixth St., SW/Waterfront Metro). The four previous job fairs included partnerships with more than 40 participating organizations and served a combined total attendance of about 5,500 community members. This spring's job fair will take a renewed interest in providing opportunities and resources to returning citizens re-entering the workplace.

"The tradition of the job fair started with our production of *Good People* and former Councilmember Tommy Wells," explains Arena Stage Executive Producer **Edgar Dobie**. "This good idea found new champions with Councilmembers Charles Allen and Elissa Silverman. Our commitment to making the Mead Center available for worthwhile community events remains strong and we look forward to welcoming folks again on February 20."

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

"Arena Stage's current production of *King Hedley II* grapples with what is a real-life drama for many of our residents: how to get on good footing with life, family, and work after returning from incarceration," shares **Silverman**. "Returning citizens often face barriers to employment at the very moment a good job could make a profound impact on their transition back into the community. District government can play a key role in helping to remove barriers and connect these residents to jobs, job training and supportive services that lead to greater opportunity, and I hope this event is part of a continuing and growing effort to do this."

"I'm excited to continue the tradition of supporting D.C. job fairs here in Ward 6," says **Allen**. "It's crucial that the District government work to connect citizens to good jobs, job training programs and other employment resources. I'm committed to helping unemployed and underemployed residents and returning citizens find new

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opportunities, bringing talented workers together with our local business community to grow a stronger District economy for all.”

While the event is open to all District residents, this year’s job fair will continue to support returning citizens and will include five employment categories—**construction, retail, hospitality, armed forces and facilities services**. Recruiting companies committed to be onsite include **Architect of the Capitol, Big Bus Tours, Capital Rail Constructors, Clark Construction at the Wharf, Clean Team, CSX, DC Central Kitchen, DC Water, District Department of the Environment (DDOE), Giant Food, Metropolitan Police Department, Sears Home Services, Specialty Hospital of Washington and U.S. Navy**.

A number of organizations that provide **re-entry support services**, including free GED and literacy classes, will also be onsite. Partners include **Academy of Hope, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), DC Jobs Council, DC Office of Human Rights, Department of Employment Services, Dress for Success, So Others Might Eat (SOME), Street Sense and United Planning Organization**. For additional information and the most up-to-date list of participating organizations please visit arenastage.org/jobfair.

Employers wishing to participate should contact Patricia Joseph in the Office of At-Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman at PJoseph@dccouncil.us or 202-724-8081.

***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 over 10,000 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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