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**OLD GLOBE RECEIVES \$750,000 GRANT FROM**  
**THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT**  
**PROGRAMS IN SOUTHEASTERN SAN DIEGO**

***GLOBE ONE OF SELECT GROUP OF ARTS INSTITUTIONS TO RECEIVE THIS HIGHLY-COMPETITIVE  
GRANT FROM FOUNDATION'S ARTISTIC INNOVATION FUND***

San Diego – Lou Spisto, Executive Producer of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe, announced today that The James Irvine Foundation has awarded the Theatre a \$750,000 grant over three years from the Foundation's Artistic Innovation Fund to support the Globe's programming efforts in the communities of southeastern San Diego. The Globe recently acquired its 43,000-square-foot Technical Center at 5335 Market Street, and this served as the springboard to develop an artistic hub in the community, with the creation and implementation of innovative play development, performance and training programs for area students and residents.

“The James Irvine Foundation is recognized across the country as one of California's most significant grantmakers, with a keen understanding of the needs facing major arts organizations today,” said Spisto. “This important grant will allow the Globe to fully realize this groundbreaking new program in the redeveloping communities of southeastern San Diego. While the Technical Center enhances the Theatre's capacity to design and build sets, equipment and costumes, it also offers the opportunity for the Globe to become a vital cultural resource in these communities. We will create programs that engage residents in the art of theatre and the life of The Old Globe, as we ourselves are transformed by this opportunity.”

The Globe is one of only four arts organizations to receive grants this year through The Irvine Foundation's prestigious Artistic Innovation Fund “to support the state's premiere cultural institutions as they advance their artistic vision and deliver innovative, aspirational programming.” Four California arts organizations, including The Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Ballet Association, and The Old Globe, have each received grants to fund creative audience development approaches and/or innovative programming plans. The grants allow the organizations to experiment with new forms of arts production, engage audiences in interactive ways through more dynamic, fresh and relevant programming, and develop models for their specific discipline and the broader arts field.

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The grant will help fund several projects, including a play development series, where the Globe will pilot a series of workshops of new plays and musicals geared toward younger, more diverse audiences. The Globe will involve southeastern San Diego community members in the workshop process and develop complementary education programs to support each project. The Globe also plans to create a series of short plays over the next several years, in collaboration with southeastern San Diego residents, to tell stories engendered by the multiple cultures represented in the community. Additional plans include establishing internships and training opportunities at the Globe Technical Center for recent high school graduates and young adults from southeastern San Diego; producing three plays or musicals (one per year) for Globe mainstage seasons with subject matter reflecting the area's diverse population, including expanded access to the Globe through five free student matinees and two community access performances for each of these three productions; building and expanding partnerships with schools and community organizations in southeastern San Diego to establish a meaningful connection between community members and the Globe.

In addition to The Irvine Foundation grant, the Globe has received local support for its programming efforts in southeastern San Diego through grants from The City of San Diego Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and San Diego Foundation.

The Technical Center was outlined in the Globe's 2004 strategic plan, which proposed the redevelopment of the Globe campus and initiated the \$75 million Capital and Endowment Campaign, "Securing a San Diego Landmark." The strategic plan recognized that the Globe's previous 6,500-square-foot scene shop, located at the back of the theatre and utilizing the rear loading dock, was inadequate for a theatre doing work of the Globe's depth and scope. As the Globe had previously needed to lease a separate 18,000-square-foot warehouse facility, the new Technical Center combines both the scene shop and warehouse, in addition to its technical staff offices, under one roof. The Technical Center includes space for the construction of Globe sets, as well as the appropriate layout of stage floors, full-stage drops, and the complete assembly of scenic elements. Additionally, the Technical Center will provide sufficient prop and costume storage for the Theatre's wide variety of productions.

The Globe opened the Technical Center on January 30, 2008. The property is located at 5335 Market Street in the District 4 Enterprise Zone within the redevelopment area overseen by the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). The Globe's move into southeastern San Diego was supported by City Councilmember Tony Young, and the SEDC, headed by Carolyn Smith.

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The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society. The Foundation's grantmaking is organized around three program areas: Arts, Youth and California Perspectives, which focuses on improving decision making on significant state issues. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided over \$1 billion in grants to more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations throughout California. With current assets of over \$1.8 billion, the Foundation expects to make grants of \$81 million in 2008 for the people of California.

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*The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award® -winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 72 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.*

*The Globe's 2008 Summer Season includes the renowned Summer Shakespeare Festival, featuring Romeo and Juliet, The Merry Wives of Windsor and All's Well That Ends Well playing in repertory; The Pleasure of His Company; and Donald Margulies' Sight Unseen. Under the leadership of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Resident Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.*