



For Immediate Release: September 12, 2007  
Contact: Becky Biegelsen (619) 231-1941, x2352  
[www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org)

**OLD GLOBE AWARDED \$1.635 MILLION GRANT BY THE STATE**  
**THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL**  
**ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT FACILITIES PROJECT**

***GRANT RECOGNIZES GLOBE'S IMPORTANCE AS A CULTURAL AND  
HISTORICAL COMMUNITY ASSET***

San Diego – The Old Globe is pleased to announce the award of a \$1,635,075 grant from the State of California through The California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) to support the Theatre's Capital and Endowment Campaign: *Securing a San Diego Landmark*. The grant will help fund new facilities within the Conrad Prebys Theater Center, including a new second stage and a new education center, as well as a new plaza. Specifically, the funds are earmarked for costs associated with the new theater itself.

The Globe's grant application was ranked among the highest of the 182 applicants for CCHE funding, which advanced the Theatre for consideration in the final round. Executive Director Lou Spisto was then invited to Sacramento to present the Globe's facilities project to the CCHE Board of Directors during a public meeting on August 22, 2007.

“This generous grant from The California Cultural and Historical Endowment will greatly assist the Globe in its facilities plans to improve our Balboa Park campus and to better serve Globe patrons, artists and the community,” said Spisto. “We are so pleased to be recognized by the State for our significance in California, as well as our prominence as one of the nation's premiere regional theatres. The CCHE's investment in The Old Globe will help ensure that this theatre remains an invaluable cultural resource for generations to come.”

-- more --

The Old Globe has been deeply rooted in the San Diego community for more than seven decades. In 1935, a replica of Shakespeare's original Globe Theatre was built in Balboa Park during the California Pacific International Exposition. After the exposition closed in 1936, the theatre was to be torn down. A group of determined San Diegans convinced city officials of the theatre's potential as a cultural asset and launched a campaign to raise the money needed to make The Old Globe a permanent part of the San Diego community. Today, the Tony Award-winning theatre is still thriving in California's treasured Balboa Park. The Old Globe's record of service to this region and State is unparalleled through its rich cultural offerings for patrons of all ages. The new facilities project continues the legacy that has made the Globe San Diego's most significant performing institution and expands upon its role as one of the State's most prominent arts organizations, leading the regional theatre movement and providing programs for youth and underserved in California. The Globe's Founding Director, Craig Noel, has been a key figure in the State with a vision to serve both the art form and region. For 72 years, The Old Globe has produced a diverse program of classical theatre, revivals and world-premiere works for adults and young people and made immeasurable contributions to the cultural life of California in its historic setting.

The Old Globe unveiled the detailed plans for the rejuvenation of its Balboa Park campus in June, 2007. They were first made public last year with the announcement of the Theatre's \$75 million Campaign, which designated \$22 million to support the facilities project, highlighted by the newly-named Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. The centerpiece of the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, which also encompasses the Old Globe Theatre, include the new Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre and the new Karen and Donald Cohn Education Center, as well as a complete redesign of the Globe's Copley Plaza. The grant brings the Globe closer to its goal for this major facilities project due to begin in summer 2008.

The new complex is a dynamic four-level facility (two below grade), housing a new 250-seat arena-style theatre that will retain the same intimate feel as the current second stage while achieving state-of-the-art technical capabilities for producing a wider variety of work and improved comfort and safety for audiences and artists. The new education center, which "wraps" the theatre on the uppermost level, will provide a dedicated and centralized space for the Globe's education and outreach programs. Additionally, the new building will feature three stories for much-needed additional and improved dressing rooms and artistic support spaces that will serve all three theatres on The Old Globe campus. The construction plans also provide for new public spaces, upgrades to the pub, additional restrooms, and a completely rebuilt Copley Plaza. The new 14,000-square-foot plaza will serve as a beautiful outdoor gathering area for all three theatre venues while providing spaces for a variety of Globe and community functions. The new building and plaza will remain compatible with the Elizabethan architectural style of the historic Old Globe campus, while blending seamlessly with the enchanting surroundings in Balboa Park.

-- more --

The California Culture and Historical Endowment (CCHE) was established in 2004 to fund projects through a competitive grant process to tell the stories of California as a unified society and of the many groups of people that together comprise historic and modern California. The funding for the Capital Projects is from voter-approved bonds from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, more commonly known as Proposition 40. \$122 million from the Proposition 40 funds has been allocated to CCHE to distribute to government entities, non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes.

# # #

*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.*

*Highlights of the Globe's 2007/2008 Season include the world premiere musical, A Catered Affair, written by Harvey Fierstein and John Bucchino, the West Coast Premiere of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's Oscar and the Pink Lady, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, In This Corner, by Steven Drukman, Howard Korder's Sea of Tranquility, as well as the world-premieres of The Band Wagon and Beethoven, As I Knew Him. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.*