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## **Green Music Center selected as One of Ten Recipients of Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions**

*Arts leader and choreographer Liz Lerman, known for her intensive multidisciplinary works, will bring her latest project to Sonoma State University's Green Music Center.*

(Sonoma County, CA) — The Green Music Center has been selected as one of ten recipients of this year's Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions, a program of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The Green Music Center is among a stellar group of 10 Bay Area-based non-profit organizations and world-renowned artists that will receive \$150,000 each to commission new works in the field of dance and movement-based performance. The artists in this cohort of recipients include innovators in the field of dance, veteran masters, and artists who are deeply rooted in their communities. These awards are part of the Hewlett Foundation's ongoing commitment to investing in new and innovative works of art that offer both joy and solace, even in difficult times.

This commission offers the opportunity for the Green Music Center to create and present *Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)*, a new site-specific work by acclaimed arts leader and choreographer, Liz Lerman and her company.

*Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)* is part of a multi-site project developed through deep engagement with communities around the country. The resulting work, exploring depictions of women's bodies across multiple historic periods, will be unique to Sonoma County, incorporating the particular experiences and concerns of local community members through a series of developmental residencies at Green Music Center.

Green Music Center Executive Director Jacob Yarrow states, "Supporting Liz Lerman in the creation process for *Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)* is a manifestation of our mission, which focuses on supporting artists, investigating the big ideas of our time, and ensuring that our projects are compelling and relevant to our local communities. We will work with Liz and her company to foster deep engagement at Sonoma State and throughout Sonoma County by creating a variety of experiences that educate, connect, and inspire."

Building upon Liz Lerman's last visit in Fall 2019, this commission will expand and deepen the ways that the Green Music Center engages with students at Sonoma State University and the community at large. The commission will allow for a number of in-person developmental workshops, leading to a version of *Wicked Bodies* that is specific to Sonoma County and the Green Music Center.

Lerman speaks of her return to the Green Music Center, "I am thrilled to be able to work with the Green Music Center and the wonderful faculty, staff, and students of Sonoma State. We were inspired on our last visit by the depth of the inquiry, the joy in working together, and the willingness to take on new perspectives in subject matter as varied as represented in this piece. I look forward to returning and meeting more of the public when we are there."

The Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions were launched in 2017 to celebrate the foundation's 50th anniversary. It is a five-year, \$8 million initiative supporting the creation and premiere of 50 new works from outstanding artists working in five performing arts disciplines. The largest commissioning effort of its kind in the country, the initiative is a symbol of the Hewlett Foundation's longstanding commitment to supporting art that matters to the people and communities of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Hewlett Foundation has supported the arts in the region for more than 50 years, and currently makes grants of roughly \$20 million per year to more than 200 nonprofit arts organizations, mostly in the form of long-term general operating support.

More information about the Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions can be found at: [hewlett.org/50Commissions](http://hewlett.org/50Commissions).

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### **ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER**

The Green Music Center is the performing arts presenter at Sonoma State University. The mission of the Green Music Center is to present the most compelling artists of our time, to investigate ideas, and to provide access to diverse artistic experiences that educate, connect, and inspire Sonoma State University and neighboring North Bay communities. Surrounded by the foothills of Sonoma County, the Green Music Center includes the 1,400-seat Weill Hall, with a rear wall that opens to lawn seating for a unique summertime experience, and the intimate 240-seat Schroeder Hall. As a focal point for the arts and education in the region, the Green Music Center presents artists year-round, serving as home to the Santa Rosa Symphony, Sonoma Bach, and the Sonoma State University Music Department.

### **ABOUT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Sonoma State University is a public liberal arts college located in California's premier wine country, one hour north of San Francisco. Nestled at the base of the idyllic Sonoma Mountains, the campus is home to more than 9,000 undergraduate students and is among the most popular schools in the California State University system. Named a "Most Wired" campus by The Princeton Review and a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report, SSU was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.

The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center

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