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## **National Endowment for the Arts gives *Art Works Grant for Variety Theatre!***

**St. Louis** (Feb 18, 2019) – National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than \$27 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment’s first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$10,000 to Variety Theatre for the 2019 production of DISNEY’S MARY POPPINS. Art Works is the Arts Endowment’s principal grantmaking program. The agency received 1,605 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking and will award 972 grants in this category.

“The arts enhance our communities and our lives, and we look forward to seeing these projects take place throughout the country, giving Americans opportunities to learn, to create, to heal, and to celebrate,” said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Variety Theatre is pleased to receive its fourth grant from the National Endowment for The Arts having previously received awards in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2018. This year’s Art Works award is for our 2019 production of DISNEY’S MARY POPPINS, which marks our eleventh anniversary of producing inclusive theater in the St. Louis region. We are honored that the NEA recognizes the work that Variety Theatre does to present professional musical theater featuring a children’s ensemble with kids of all abilities,” said Jan Albus, Executive Producer, Variety Theatre.

Variety empowers children with physical and developmental disabilities, also referred to as children with special needs, and improves their quality of life. Our programs highlight ability rather than disability. This holistic approach gives access to critical medical equipment and therapies, along with innovative Camp and Performing Arts programs, which provide

opportunities for recreation, socialization, and artistic expression. Children gain or maintain independence, boost socialization among their friends and family, demonstrate belief in themselves, and increase skills they need to engage their world as fully as possible. [www.varietystl.org](http://www.varietystl.org)

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