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**Announcing the Full Event Schedule for the 2026  
Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration, Honoring 2026  
HGP Winner Charisse Pearlina Weston and Premiering a  
New Play from 2024 HGP Winner Deepa Purohit**

*2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner – visual artist **Charisse Pearlina Weston** – shares her vision and past work with Sarasota audiences in a free event at The Ringling on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and the premiere of **Mxx: The Dignity Project**, the new play commission from 2024 HGP winner **Deepa Purohit** on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.*

March 4, 2026 — **The Hermitage Artist Retreat** (Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO), in collaboration with the Greenfield Foundation, presents the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the **Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration**. The events span from Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, including the annual **Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner** in Sarasota on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The celebration culminates on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> with the first public presentation of 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner **Deepa Purohit**'s original play **Mxx: The Dignity Project**, a new Hermitage commission presented in partnership with **Asolo Repertory Theatre**.

2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner **Charisse Pearlina Weston** will offer her first public Hermitage program in partnership with **The Ringling** at the Museum's Historic Asolo Theater in Sarasota on **Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**. Weston, a conceptual artist and writer, contends with the dynamic interplay of violence and intimacy through repetition, enfoldment, and concealment in her work. Drawn to its fragility and danger, glass has been her primary medium for much of her career. Her recent solo exhibit, "mis/mé- (squeeze)" was a *New York Times* Critic's Pick. Weston will spend an hour in conversation with 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize juror **Larry Ossei-Mensah**, independent curator and founder of ARTNOIR. Join the Hermitage for this free community event: "**Repetition, Enfoldment, Concealment,**" **A Conversation on Art and Practice**. Together, Weston and Ossei-Mensah will discuss the intricacies of Weston's practice, offer their perspectives on the arts as a reflection of social impact,

and discuss how Charisse's Hermitage Greenfield Prize commission extends that work into new pathways.

The following night, **Charisse Pearlina Weston** will be celebrated at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner**, a benefit for the Hermitage Artist Retreat, starting at 6pm on **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** at Michael's On East (Sarasota, Florida). The annual fundraiser will feature live musical performances from leading talents of Broadway and beyond. (*Guest performers will be announced at a later date.*) Past guest performers at this popular event have included Tony Award nominee **Eden Espinosa**, Tony and Grammy Award winner **Rachel Bay Jones**, Tony Award nominee **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer**, and Tony Award winner **Gavin Creel**. This elegant annual dinner heralds the jury-selected recipient of this prestigious prize, awarded this season in the discipline of visual art. **The Hermitage Greenfield Prize (HGP)** is a distinguished national commission awarded by the Hermitage Artist Retreat in partnership with the Philadelphia-based **Greenfield Foundation**; the \$35,000 award rotates annually among visual art, theater, and music. The 2026 winner's newly commissioned work will have its world premiere exhibition in Sarasota in the spring of 2028. The Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration is presented in partnership with the **Greenfield Foundation**, with the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County** serving as Lead Community Sponsor. Media sponsors include *The Herald Tribune*, and *SRQ Magazine*. The co-chairs for this year's gala dinner are **Ellen & Richard Sandor**. A full list of this year's sponsors can be found at **HermitageArtistRetreat.org/HGPDinner2026**.

Sponsorship levels for this Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner, the organization's spring benefit, range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Tables and sponsorships may be purchased by contacting the Hermitage Development Office at (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2, or by emailing [Development@HermitageArtistRetreat.org](mailto:Development@HermitageArtistRetreat.org).

The 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Celebration will culminate on **Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** with the first public presentation of the newly commissioned play by 2024 HGP winner **Deepa Purohit**, *Mxx: The Dignity Project*. This presentation will be presented in partnership with Asolo Repertory Theatre at the Asolo's Koski Center. An immersive play, installation, discussion circle, and "happening," *Mxx: The Dignity Project* centers the collected experiences of inter-generational women from the South Asian diaspora in America who engage or disrupt the diasporic rituals and expectations placed on their bodies as they navigate the "machinery" of the medical/elder care/end-of-life system. How do women live, age, and die with dignity in a culture where the entire medical system is built on this key tenet: to prolong life? This workshop presentation features a cast of four South Asian women, including Hermitage Fellow **Nandita Shenoy, Sara Haider, Indika Senanayake, and Rita Wolf**.

Past recipients of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize include **Rucyl Mills**, composer and sound artist (2025); **Deepa Purohit**, playwright (2024); **Sandy Rodriguez**, visual

artist (2023); **Rennie Harris**, dancer/choreographer (2023); **Angélica Negrón**, composer (2022); **Aleshea Harris**, playwright (2021); **Helga Davis**, composer / performer (2019); **Martyna Majok**, playwright (2018); **David Burnett**, photojournalist (2017); **Coco Fusco**, interdisciplinary artist (2016); **Bobby Previte**, composer / drummer (2015); **Nilo Cruz**, playwright (2014); **Trenton Doyle Hancock**, visual artist (2013); **Vijay Iyer**, composer/pianist (2012); **John Guare**, playwright (2011); **Sanford Biggers**, visual artist (2010); **Craig Lucas**, playwright (2009); and **Eve Beglarian**, composer (2009).

A leading national arts incubator, the Hermitage is the *only* major arts organization in Florida's Gulf Coast exclusively committed to supporting the development and creation of new work across all artistic disciplines. The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, film, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free year-round community programs, offering audiences in the region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world's leading artists and to get an authentic "sneak peek" into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, conversations, readings, music concerts, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

For more information, to register for one of the special HGP programs, or to learn more about the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner, visit:

**[HermitageArtistRetreat.org](http://HermitageArtistRetreat.org)**



THE HERMITAGE  
GREENFIELD PRIZE

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### **The Hermitage Artist Retreat**

Sarasota County, Florida  
Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and multidisciplinary artist retreat located on Manasota Key, Florida. For more than two decades, the Hermitage has invited accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local

community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 18 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse and accomplished group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art or performance, the Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition.

**For more information, visit [HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org).**

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

*Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues; the Welles Murphey Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation; and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.*

### **The Hermitage Greenfield Prize**

The Hermitage Greenfield Prize (HGP) is a transformative partnership between the Hermitage Artist Retreat and the Greenfield Foundation. Rotating between the fields of music, theater, and visual art, this prestigious national prize seeks to “bring into the world works of art that will have a significant impact on the broad as well as the artistic culture of our society.” The Hermitage Greenfield Prize is awarded annually and includes a Hermitage Fellowship, as well as a \$35,000 commission for a new and original piece of work to be created within a two-year time frame. A residency at the Hermitage Artist Retreat on Manasota Key in Englewood, Florida, ensures time and space in which to do the work. Past recipients of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize include: Rucyl Mills, composer and sound artist (2025); Deepa Purohit, playwright (2024); Rennie Harris, choreographer (2023); Sandy Rodriguez, visual artist (2023); Angélica Negrón, composer/instrumentalist (2022); Aleshea Harris, playwright (2021); Helga Davis, composer/performer (2019); Martyna Majok, playwright (2018); David Burnett, photojournalist (2017); Coco Fusco, interdisciplinary artist (2016); Bobby Previte, composer/drummer (2015); Nilo Cruz, playwright (2014); Trenton Doyle Hancock, visual artist (2013); Vijay Iyer, composer/pianist (2012); John Guare, playwright (2011); Sanford Biggers, visual artist (2010); Craig Lucas, playwright (2009); and Eve Beglarian, composer (2009).

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## **FULL HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE WEEKEND PROGRAM DETAILS**

- **“Repetition, Enfoldment, Concealment” – A Conversation on Art and Practice with 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Charisse Pearlina Weston, Saturday, April 11, 2026 @ 5pm:** Winner of the 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize in Visual Art, **Charisse Pearlina Weston** is a conceptual artist and writer whose work contends with the dynamic interplay of violence and intimacy through repetition, enfoldment, and concealment. Drawn to its fragility and danger, Weston has worked with glass as her primary material for much of her career. Her recent solo exhibit, “mis/mé- (squeeze)” was a *New York Times* Critic’s Pick, the review’s headline exclaiming “Surveillance Never Looked So Good” and noting that “in Weston’s best work, the folds and bends in her industrial ingredients seem to be concealing or safeguarding information, holding things back as they beguile.” Weston will spend this hour in conversation with 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize juror **Larry Ossei-Mensah**, independent curator and founder of ARTNOIR. Together, they will discuss the intricacies of Weston’s practice, offer their perspectives on the arts as a reflection of social

impact, and discuss how her Hermitage Greenfield Prize commission extends that work into new pathways. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and The Ringling. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **The Ringling's Historic Asolo Theater, 5401 Bay Shore Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243.***

- **GALA DINNER! – 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner, Sunday, April 12, 6pm:** The 2025 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner recognizes this year's recipient, visual artist Charisse Pearlina Weston. This 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner will feature live performances from Hermitage alumni. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation. Lead Community Sponsor: the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. **Michael's On East (1212 South East Ave., Sarasota, FL 34239).** For information on tables and sponsorships (\$2,000 to \$10,000), visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**, or call (941) 475-2098, Ext. 2.*
- **“Mxx: The Dignity Project,” a World Premiere Play Commission from 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Deepa Purohit, Monday, April 13 @ 7pm:** The culminating work of her 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize commission, **Deepa Purohit** shares the first public presentation of her new play, **Mxx: The Dignity Project**. An immersive play, installation, discussion circle, and “happening,” **Mxx** centers the collected experiences of inter-generational women from the South Asian diaspora in America who engage or disrupt the diasporic rituals and expectations placed on their bodies as they navigate the “machinery” of the medical/elder care/end-of-life system. How do women live, age, and die with dignity in a culture where the entire medical system is built on this key tenet: to prolong life? This presentation features a cast of four South Asian women: Hermitage Fellow **Nandita Shenoy**, and actors **Sara Haider, Indika Senanayake, and Rita Wolf**. *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org** (\$5/person registration fee). **Asolo Repertory Theatre's Koski Center Coville Rehearsal Hall, 1009 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243.***

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### **ALL ANNOUNCED HERMITAGE PROGRAMS:**

**Thursday, March 5 @ 7pm, The Ruby E. Crosby Alumni Music Initiative: “Flute Through the Ages,”** featuring Hermitage Alumna **Emi Ferguson**, at Selby Gardens' Downtown Campus (Sarasota)

*Emi Ferguson's concert and Hermitage residency are made possible through the Ruby E. Crosby Alumni Music Series at the Hermitage*

**Monday, March 16 @ 6pm, “Joe & Lauren Make Cool Music at MPAC,”** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Joe Iconis** and **Lauren Marcus**, at the Manatee Performing Arts Center (Bradenton)  
*Presented in partnership with Manatee Performing Arts Center*

**Thursday, March 19 @ 6:30pm, “Dramatizing the Contemporary World,”** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Leslie Rodriguez Kritzer** and **Beth Steel**, on the Hermitage Beach (Englewood)

*Beth Steel was a finalist for the 2024 Hermitage Major Theater Award, made possible with generous support from Flora Major and the Kutya Major Foundation*

**Friday, March 20 @ 6:30pm, “Joe & Lauren: Making Music in Boca Grande,”** featuring Hermitage Fellows **Joe Iconis** and **Lauren Marcus**, at the Gasparilla Island Lighthouse – Range Light (Boca Grande)

*Presented in partnership with Barrier Island Parks Society (BIPS)*

*This program on Boca Grande is generously sponsored by **Alice & David Court***

**HERMITAGE GREENFIELD PRIZE CELEBRATION EVENT! Saturday, April 11 @ 5pm, “Repetition, Enfoldment, Concealment” – A Conversation on Art and Practice with 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Charisse Pearlina Weston** featuring **Charisse Pearlina Weston** and **Larry Ossei-Menseh**, at The Ringling’s Historic Asolo Theater (Sarasota)

*Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and The Ringling*

**HGP GALA DINNER! Sunday, April 12 @ 6pm, “2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Dinner,”** honoring Visual Artist **Charisse Pearlina Weston**. This is the Hermitage’s annual spring gala, and sponsorship packages range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

*Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County*

**HGP WORLD PREMIERE! Monday, April 13 @ 7pm, “Mxx: The Dignity Project – Deepa Purohit’s Hermitage Greenfield Prize Premiere,”** featuring 2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner **Deepa Purohit** at Asolo Repertory Theatre’s Koski Center (Sarasota). *Presented in partnership with the Greenfield Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Asolo Repertory Theatre.*

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## BIOS

### **Deepa Purohit**

#### **(2024 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner, Theater)**

**Deepa Purohit** is the 2024 recipient of the **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**. A Brooklyn-based playwright, she made her Off-Broadway debut in Atlantic Theater Company’s 2022-23 season with the world premiere of her play *Elyria* (2023 Drama League Award Nominee for Outstanding Production of a Play, 2017 NEA Commission, and 2019 Jerome Foundation support w/Ma-Yi Theater Company). She received the 2023 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award for Excellence in Playwriting, and a 2022-23 Edgerton Foundation Award for *Elyria*. Plays: *Crushed Earth* with Sanjit De Silva (2017 People’s Light Theatre: New Play Frontiers Commission) – 2023 audio play debut with People’s Light, Theatre Horizon, and Hedgerow Theatre, *The In Between*, *A Valentine* (2016 Kilroys Honorable Mention), *Bones* (2017 Andrew Mellon Foundation Residency w/Ma-Yi Theater Company), *Have Sari Will Travel!* (Rising Circle Theater Collective), *Flight*, and *Mothering*: a collection of short form plays. Co-writing with Sanjit De Silva and Rising Circle Theater Collective: *Pulling the Lever*, *American Family Project*, *Grace*. Deepa is currently adapting *Elyria* into a TV series and working on a NYSCA new play commission from Atlantic Theater Company. She co-founded and ran Rising Circle Theater Collective (2000-2012), a theater company centered on the stories of people of color. A former Baltimore City middle school teacher and 1992 Teach For America alumna, Deepa has a BA in History from Northwestern University, Masters in Public Health from Columbia University, and an MFA in Playwriting from Brooklyn College. She also recently served as the Director of New Works at People’s Light Theatre.

**Charisse Pearlina Weston**  
**(2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner, Visual Art)**

**Charisse Pearlina Weston** (b. 1988, Houston, TX; based in Harlem, New York) is the 2026 recipient of the **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**. Weston is a conceptual artist and writer whose work contends with the dynamic interplay of violence and intimacy through repetition, enfoldment, and concealment. Her recent exhibitions include group and solo presentations at the Whitney Museum of American Art, MOMA PS1, SITE Santa Fe, and the Queens Museum, among other venues. Recent fellowships and residencies beyond the Hermitage Artist Retreat include the Studio Museum, Harlem Artist in Residency (2022–23), 2023 Jerome Hill Fellowship, 2023 Hodder Fellowship at the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, a 2025 Guggenheim Fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, and a 2025 Stepping Stone awardee from the Trellis Foundation.

**Larry Ossei-Mensah**  
**(Juror, 2026 Hermitage Greenfield Prize)**

**Larry Ossei-Mensah** is a Ghanaian-American curator, cultural critic, and writer whose practice amplifies diverse artistic voices and fosters global cultural exchange; he served this year as a juror for the 2026 **Hermitage Greenfield Prize**. Renowned for bridging communities across the art world, he has organized exhibitions in cities including Athens, London, Rome, and Hong Kong, collaborating with artists such as Derrick Adams, Hermitage Greenfield Prize recipient Sanford Biggers, Sonia Gomes, Esther Mahlangu, Amoako Boafo, and Kennedy Yanko. He has held key curatorial roles, including Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and Curator-at-Large at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. His projects have appeared at institutions including the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), The MET in Manila, MASS MoCA, the Denver Art Museum, CAMH Houston, the Seattle Art Museum, and Oolite Arts in Miami. Recent initiatives at ICA San Francisco, Storm King Art Center, and Almeida & Dale in São Paulo demonstrate his commitment to artist-centered innovation and cross-cultural dialogue. As co-founder of ARTNOIR, a nonprofit supporting artists, curators, cultural workers, and emerging patrons, Ossei-Mensah continues to shape contemporary art through public programs, community initiatives, and direct artist support. The Jar of Love Microgrant, launched in 2020, has awarded nearly \$350,000 to over 140 creatives, reflecting his dedication to sustaining and empowering artistic communities worldwide.

[HermitageArtistRetreat.org](https://HermitageArtistRetreat.org)

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