



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Elizabeth Williamson, Geva Theatre's Artistic Director,
Named 2026 ATHENA Award Finalist
by Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce**

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva Theatre is proud to announce that **Elizabeth Williamson**, Geva's Artistic Director, has been selected as a finalist for the **2026 ATHENA Awards**, presented by Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, ATHENA Awards. Greater Rochester Chamber will celebrate all the finalists and announce the recipients at a ceremony on **Thursday, February 5, 2026** at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Elizabeth Williamson shared, "This has been an amazing first three years at Geva here in Rochester, as we've taken a show off-Broadway, received an OBIE, and partnered with many extraordinary organizations, both locally and taking multiple shows around the country. I'm so pleased to be in this amazing group of finalists for the 40th annual ATHENA Awards, and so grateful to the GRCC for the honor!"

The **ATHENA Award** is given annually to a professional female leader who demonstrates significant achievements in business, community service, and the professional advancement of women. Greater Rochester Chamber has been presenting this award annually since 1987 as part of its Women's Council initiative.

Bob Duffy, President & CEO, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, said,
"Congratulations to **Elizabeth Williamson** for being named a finalist for the **2026 ATHENA Awards!** For over four decades, we have been proud to honor women and women-led organizations in our community who embody the ATHENA leadership model and build a better region for us all. Elizabeth and this year's finalists continue to raise the bar for what that looks like."

[Click here](#) to secure your spot and celebrate with us!

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About Geva Theatre

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs, and services of a national standard.

Geva offers a wide variety of educational, engagement, and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Geva Theatre sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the O-non-dowa-gah, or “the people of the Great Hill.” In English, they are known as the Seneca people, “the keeper of the western door.” They have stewarded this land through generations, and Geva pays respect and gives thanks to their elders, past and present.

Geva is under the leadership of Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson and Executive Director James Haskins.

Find out more about Geva Theatre at GevaTheatre.org or by connecting with us on social media. Facebook: facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter, Twitter: @gevatheatre, Instagram: @gevatheatre, LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center.

About Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce is the region's one-stop shop for business support, influence, and community connection. Rooted in advocacy, compliance, talent, and belonging, our organization combines an unmatched depth and breadth of business support with the agility and dedication to turn possibility into progress and accelerate opportunity and action. Here, you're in good company. Learn more at GreaterRochesterChamber.com.

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