



1209 Hay Street/P.O. Box 53723
Fayetteville, NC 28305
Business Phone: 910-323-4234
Box Office: 910-323-4233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please Contact: Ashley Owen/ 910.323.4233 x222 | aowen@cfrt.org

**CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE RECEIVES A NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS GRANT AS PART OF THE
CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY
(CARES) ACT.**

Fayetteville, NC— Cape Fear Regional Theatre (CFRT) is honored to be awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts funding appropriated as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The purpose of this grant is to retain jobs in the arts and culture sector of the economy. Cape Fear Regional Theatre will use this grant for partial salary support for our Education Department, including Marc de la Concha and Ashley Owen.

The CARES ACT appropriated \$75 million to support the Arts: 40% to State Arts Organizations nationwide and the remaining 60% (\$45 million) directly to cultural non-profits in the United States. In total 3,100 non-profits were eligible to apply for this funding. Each grant was an award of \$50,000 intended for job retention. Twenty-six North Carolina non-profits were awarded grants, totaling \$1.3 million. CFRT is one of only four theatres in the state to receive this funding. “What an incredible vote of support of the work we are doing.” Said Artistic Director Mary Catherine Burke. “We are so honored to be selected from this elite cohort of cultural organizations and are proud to be able to continue the invaluable work we are doing in our education department. COVID-19 is impacting children’s mental health in profound ways and we are glad to be able to continue to offer a sense of security in these unpredictable times.”

CFRT understands the value of theatre in lifelong learning and recognizes its responsibility to develop the next generation of artists and audiences. Summer Theatre Camps serve as one of CFRT’s most popular theatre education programs attracting 300 students per year—and growing by 45% in the last two seasons. This summer, CFRT will offer eight dynamic performing arts camps for ages 6-19, with both in-person and virtual sessions available. In light of COVID-19, CFRT has reduced in-person camp sizes, follows CDC guidelines including requiring temperature checks, face shields, and increased sanitization protocols.

For more information about Cape Fear Regional Theatre, please visit <http://www.cfrt.org/>.

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Cape Fear Regional Theatre believes in the power of storytelling and the visceral impact of live theatre. We strive for the highest standards of excellence in our artistic work, educational offerings, and outreach efforts. We provide the region a place to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share our experiences and grow as a community.