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CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE RECEIVES GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — Cape Fear Regional Theatre (CFRT) has announced their 2021-2022 activities, which will include live, professional theatre productions and a suite of educational and outreach initiatives with the help of a \$250,000.00 grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County. “Since the onset of COVID-19, CFRT has continually adapted to the changing health landscape to create safe and innovative ways to serve our community. The Arts Council has been an essential partner in making that work possible, affordable, and inclusive of everyone in the community,” says CFRT Artistic Director Mary Catherine Burke. “We look forward to another season of collaboration with the Arts Council as we continue to serve the community with award-winning productions and nationally recognized education initiatives.”

From education programs that supported children’s emotional and mental wellbeing to outdoor/open-air theatre productions that safely brought audiences together again, CFRT made the most of unique and changing circumstances throughout the pandemic. Education programs proves particularly important during this time and enrollment in CFRT’s Winter Studio classes grew by a staggering 89% over the previous year. CFRT is thrilled to return to mainstage productions in the 2021-22 Season and unveil their new, fully renovated auditorium. When audiences return to CFRT in December for the 30th Anniversary production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* they will enjoy deeper rows, wider seats, a custom sound system by a TONY Award winning sound designer, improved accessibility, and a new, fresh-air HVAC system. The Season will also feature *The Wizard of Oz* (January 2022), *Welcome to Arroyo’s* (March 2022), *Clue* (April 2022), and *The Color Purple* (May/June 2022).

Ticket sales account for less than 40% of CFRT’s funding. “We are deeply grateful to the Arts Council for its incredible financial support. This funding is essential to our operations and enables us to produce high-quality productions and enriching education programs. As our community continues overcoming the evolving challenges of the pandemic, we are grateful to be in a position to support their creative and emotional needs through the live arts,” says Ella Wrenn, CFRT’s Managing Director.

“Cultural Organization Resource Grants (C.O.R.E.) support the backbone art organizations of Cumberland County,” says Bob Pinson, Interim President and CEO of the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County. “The Arts Council is proud to partner with Cape Fear Regional Theatre as a C.O.R.E. Grantee. We value all that these organizations contribute to the arts in Cumberland County.”

The Arts Council’s Community Organization Resource Grants (CORE) may be awarded to local arts agencies in Cumberland County whose programs are vital to the cultural life of the community and whose organizations have reached a size and maturity that assure their long-term viability. The purpose of CORE Grants is to strengthen and stabilize major arts institutions and help them to deliver high quality arts services to the citizens of Cumberland County.

CFRT is committed to presenting an annual series of plays, performances, and special events that, in addition to entertaining, will enlighten, inspire, and educate performers and audiences. CFRT strives to



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tell the stories that resonate with all members of this dynamic, diverse community and be a place for the entire community to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share experiences, and grow as a community.

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About the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County:

The Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization based in Fayetteville, NC that supports individual creativity, cultural preservation, economic development, and lifelong learning through the ARTS. Founded in 1973, the Arts Council has served as a link between artists, arts, and cultural organizations, and the greater community by administering programs in partnership with a variety of local agencies to stimulate community and economic growth, reinforce child education, and enhance the cultural identity of the arts and entertainment district.

In the fiscal year 2020-21, the Arts Council distributed \$1.1M in grant funds and allocations to Cumberland County arts and culture nonprofit organizations, artists, and municipalities. The Arts Council's grants, programs, and services are funded in part by contributions from community partners, and through grants from the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

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.