



1209 Hay St. Fayetteville, NC 28305

910.323.4233 (Box Office Phone)

910.323.4234 (Business Phone)

www.CFRT.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Please Contact: Ashley Owen | 910.323.4234 ext. 222 | aowen@cfrt.org

## **CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE TO RECEIVE \$25,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

Fayetteville, NC-- CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE (CFRT) is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$25,000. This grant will support CFRT's production of *Once on This Island* next season and accompanying community outreach. In total, the NEA will award 1,135 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$37 million as part of its second round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

"Projects like *Once on This Island* exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit."

"We are honored to receive this incredible support from the NEA for *Once on This Island*. The NEA's support will help us continue to produce award-winning productions, and it also demonstrates how CFRT's work is recognized and celebrated on the national stage. We are the only theatre in North Carolina to receive NEA support for Musical Theatre and we couldn't be more excited about this production and are thrilled that it will be led by Director/Choreographer Brian Harlan Brooks, who returns to CFRT after previously directing *The Color Purple* and *Jelly's Last Jam*," says CFRT Artistic Director Mary Kate Burke.

*Once on This Island* is a Tony Award-winning musical and Caribbean retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. The musical explores themes of classism, identity, and the importance of sharing stories that will resonate with audiences. Production is slated for late spring 2025.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

###

**About Cape Fear Regional Theatre:** Cape Fear Regional Theatre was organized in 1962 by a small group of local actors and friends who gathered to dream. Together they founded the Fayetteville Little Theatre, which would evolve into one of the finest theatres in the state of North Carolina. With the

community's support the founding group was able to purchase a former movie theatre building at 1209 Hay Street. This would become the current three-story complex, which houses a 273-seat main stage. In 1986, the theatre changed its name to Cape Fear Regional Theatre to reflect its growing importance to southeastern North Carolina.