

THEATRE ARLINGTON

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PRESS RELEASE

Theatre Arlington receives \$80,000 operational grant

Arlington, TX, February 24, 2021:

Theatre Arlington is honored to announce that the Arlington Cultural Tourism Council (ACTC) has awarded Theatre Arlington an \$80,000 Downtown Arlington Cultural Arts Grant. This grant will provide the 48-year-old theater with much-needed operational funding. ACTC has been a longstanding source of funding for Arlington's cultural tourism program development, expansion and operations.



Until the Covid-19 pandemic hit, Theatre Arlington was living up to their mission of producing superior, diverse theatrical productions and providing quality arts education on a daily basis for 47 years. Between productions, theatre classes and outreach, a nonprofit theatre must find the time to contribute many hours to fundraising and developing a broad donor base, as ticket revenue only covers about 40% of a theatre's operating cost. Project or program grants are nice and essential to support those important endeavors, but what a nonprofit truly covets are grants that can maintain their *day-to-day operation*. This general operating support may cover staff, rent, office supplies or just help to "keep the lights on," all which builds a stronger, more sustainable infrastructure. Though the chaos of the Covid-19 pandemic has forced arts institutions across the nation to either close their doors permanently or extremely limit their work, Theatre Arlington has tightened their belts and worked diligently to continue providing education and entertainment in a safe and healthy way. This generous and very timely grant from ACTC is an investment in Theatre Arlington's success and contributions to the city of Arlington.



Executive Producer, Steven D. Morris, staff and board of directors of Theatre Arlington are humbled and honored to receive this generous \$80,000 grant from ACTC empowering them to continue and broaden their mission. Morris states, "We are thrilled that ACTC has chosen to support the Arts in Arlington in such a powerful way, especially in times such as these. This generous grant is a wonderful, much needed gift to Theatre Arlington, our patrons and our community. We are grateful that the ACTC believes in what Theatre Arlington and all of the arts offer a community."

The arts are essential to a vibrant community. The arts connect us, *touch* us, and *empower* us to make a positive change in the world around us. Theatre Arlington is dedicated to this mission and with the support of ACTC, together they work to keep the magic of live theatre alive and thriving in Downtown Arlington.

ABOUT ARLINGTON CULTURAL TOURISM COUNCIL:

Through a stable source of funding for cultural tourism program development, expansion, and operations, the ACTC seeks to:

- Diversify Arlington’s arts and cultural offerings.
- Enrich and cultivate Arlington’s arts and cultural assets.
- Establish Arlington as a premier cultural tourism destination.
- Enhance Arlington’s quality of life.
- Attract incremental tourists to Arlington.
- Increase Arlington’s appeal to attract new long-term investment into the community.

ABOUT THEATRE ARLINGTON:

Located in the center of Arlington's Arts District, Theatre Arlington is one of the largest semi-professional, non-profit theaters in the Southwest, with roots that date back to the 1973 and a group known as the Potluck Players. Forty-eight years later the staff and board of directors are still as dedicated to *enhancing the quality of life in North Texas by presenting superior, diverse, artistic experiences through performance, production and education* as they were during their humble beginnings.

Besides a regular season featuring eight to nine productions each season and a cabaret series, TA runs a year-round theatre school including spring break and summer camps, and also partners with the Arlington ISD and local community organizations to provide free and low-cost art enrichment programs for area children and teens. The Theatre is also proud to perform under their Actors’ Equity Small Professional Theatre Contract. Theatre Arlington has become a key player in enriching the city’s cultural environment. The remarkable pioneering vision of the theater’s early leaders to create and spearhead a true artistic community in Arlington has incredibly come to fruition.

Photo Credits

Photographer: Eric Younkin, Jr.

Left to Right: Mary Gilbreath Grim, Ken’Ja L. Brown