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**The Hermitage Artist Retreat Uses Community Foundation of Sarasota County Grant for Special Project**

*The $2,500 grant helped fund the organization’s ADA restroom compliance project.*

[Sarasota County, FL] — The Hermitage Artist Retreat recently utilized a $2,500 grant from the George J. & Alice Pugh Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to help fund the renovations of two bathrooms in the Palm House to meet all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Bayfront Builders did the work at cost.

The Palm House became part of the Hermitage campus in 2016 and was initially used for staff offices. Since then, major renovations have transformed the beachfront house on Manasota Key into additional space for Hermitage artists to share their work through free public programs.

Bruce Rodgers, executive director of the Hermitage, explains that these free cultural gatherings give both residents and visitors the rare opportunity to interact with celebrated authors, poets, artists, composers and performers from around the world.

“We appreciate the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for providing the grant for this project, and our board for additional funding, so that our programs can be enjoyed by everyone,” says Rodgers.

**About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County**

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of over $398 million in more than 1,400 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling $34 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. For more information, visit www.CFSarasota.org or call (941) 955-3000.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes).