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Hermitage Artist Retreat Receives Arts Appreciation Grant From Gulf Coast Community Foundation

The Hermitage joins 11 other cornerstone arts organizations that are recognized for bringing world-class talent and beauty to Florida's Cultural Coast. The \$30,000 annual unrestricted grant will help support core operations.

(September 2, 2021) The Hermitage Artist Retreat has been recognized by Gulf Coast Community Foundation as one of 12 cornerstone arts organizations with its Arts Appreciation Grant. The unrestricted \$30,000 grant, made possible through the Venice Endowment Fund and the Violetta Marchisio Charitable Fund, will help support the Hermitage's core operations for the 2021-2022 season. Gulf Coast notes that its Arts Appreciation grants allow area organizations to focus on what they do best — "bringing world-class talent and beauty to Florida's Cultural Coast." This year, Gulf Coast added the Hermitage Artist Retreat to its distinguished list of grantees, stating that the organization has a successful grant history with the foundation and strong donor support.

"The Hermitage is a unique and beloved regional asset that rose to the challenge of innovating during the pandemic, providing strong educational and outreach programming," says Jennifer Johnston, senior community investment officer at Gulf

Coast Community Foundation. “This grant recognizes the direct contributions the Hermitage makes to our community’s cultural life and to this region’s enduring brand as *the arts and cultural destination in southwest Florida.*”

“The Gulf Coast Community Foundation has been an incredible partner and champion of the Hermitage, and we are honored to be recognized by the Gulf Coast team and board in this way,” says Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg. “The designation as an Arts Appreciation recipient – and the accompanying unrestricted grant – is a meaningful vote of confidence in the work we are doing. We are truly grateful for this generous support!”

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of visual art, theater, music, literature, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in our region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world’s leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, lectures, interactive experiences, readings, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

*For more information about the Hermitage, or to register for upcoming programs, visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.*

The Hermitage Artist Retreat

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Manasota Key, Florida, inviting accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 12 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the newly announced \$35,000 Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition. **For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.**

Gulf Coast Community Foundation

For more than 25 years, together with our donors, Gulf Coast Community Foundation has transformed our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Gulf Coast is a public charity that was created in 1995 through the sale of the Venice Hospital. Since then, we have become the philanthropic home of nearly 1,000 families, individuals, businesses, and organizations that have established charitable funds here. Together, we have invested over \$425 million in grants in the areas of health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment. **Learn more at GulfCoastCF.org.**