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**As the Hermitage Concludes 20th Anniversary Season,
Carole Crosby Elected New President of Board of Trustees;
Terry Brackett Joins as New Hermitage Trustee**

July 11, 2023 (Sarasota County, Florida) — The Hermitage Artist Retreat announced today that **Carole Crosby** has been elected by a unanimous vote as President of the Hermitage Board of Trustees after four years as a member and two seasons as Chair of the Hermitage Governance Committee. Crosby succeeds **Robyn Citrin**, who concludes her two-year term as President and will remain on the Hermitage Board. Both Crosby and Citrin became trustees in the same season Andy Sandberg was hired as Artistic Director and CEO. The Hermitage also this year welcomes **Terry Brackett** as a new member of the Board of Trustees. These changes to the Hermitage Board follow a remarkable 20th Anniversary season that has included more than 50 live programs and events, dozens of new and expanded arts and education partnerships in the community, another record-breaking fiscal year, and a dramatic expansion of the Hermitage team.

“We are thrilled to have Carole stepping into her new leadership role on the Hermitage Board of Trustees,” says Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. “With her vast experience and insight into board governance, as well her deep understanding and appreciation for the arts, Carole is a natural fit for this position. In addition to being a tremendous supporter and champion of the Hermitage and the arts in our community, Carole has been an invaluable member of the board, and I am excited to be her partner-in-crime in the seasons ahead. We are also delighted to welcome **Terry Brackett** to the Board of Trustees. Terry has been a passionate supporter of the Hermitage and its values, and we are looking forward to having her play a vital role in the future of the organization. I must share my sincere appreciation to **Robyn Citrin**, who has been a great friend and collaborator to me in her role as President and has helped guide us through a transformational time. We are grateful to have Robyn staying on as a trustee with her experience as an immediate past

president, and we are looking forward to continuing the growth trajectory at the Hermitage.”

Carole Crosby commences a two-year term as President, with **David Green** continuing as Vice President and **Steve Adler** continuing as Treasurer. **Sondra Biller** begins her first year as Secretary, while **Ellen Berman** transitions into her new role as Chair of Governance.

“It is truly an honor to lead this tremendous group of individuals and welcome Terry to the Board. We had an outstanding 20th Anniversary season, and I know that Terry’s enthusiasm for the arts — specifically the Hermitage — will be a welcome addition. The work Andy and the team do to support the development and creation of new works of theater, music, dance, poetry, visual art, and more is unparalleled. I am looking forward to this new role and a continuing collaboration with Andy and the Board in the seasons ahead.” said **Carole Crosby**.

Prior to embarking on an impressive law career, Crosby was the principal harpist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Crosby maintained her role as principal harpist while earning her law degree and went on to practice law in Detroit after graduating as valedictorian. Crosby and her husband **Larry Wickless** moved to Chicago in 2008, where she became involved with several arts organizations including the Art Institute of Chicago and Alliance Francaise de Chicago, serving on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Since moving to Sarasota, Crosby most recently served as President of the Asolo Repertory Theatre’s Board of Directors, in addition to being a past president of the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota and the Alliance Francaise de Sarasota.

In the 2021-2022, Crosby provided generous support to launch the Ruby E. Crosby Alumni Music Series at the Hermitage, bringing extraordinary Hermitage alumni composers and musicians back to Sarasota for special concerts. This has led to popular Hermitage programs from harpist **Ashley Jackson** at Selby Gardens in 2022 and composer **Zoe Sarnak** at Nathan Benderson Park in 2023.

Terry Brackett is a retired attorney, having worked in the DC area both in government and private practice for 35 years. During that time, she served on several boards and volunteered for a number of women’s organizations. In Sarasota, she has served or is currently serving on the following boards: Asolo Repertory Theatre, WUSF, Library Foundation of Sarasota County, Protect Our Defenders (Advisory Board), Sarasota Canine Search and Rescue, UN Women – USA, and Through Women’s Eyes International Film Festival (Advisory Board).

The Hermitage’s board officers for the 2023-2024 season are: **Carole Crosby**, President; **David Green**, Vice President; **Steve Adler**, Treasurer; and **Sondra Biller**, Secretary. The Hermitage Board of Trustees also includes **Ellen Berman** (Chair of Governance), **Christine Boone**, **Terry Brackett**,* **Maryann Casey**, **Robyn Citrin** (Immediate Past President), **Marletta Darnall**, **Leslie**

Edwards (Past President), **Stephanie Jones**, **Tina Shao Napoli**, **Charlotte Perret**, **Liz Richardson**, **Edward M. Swan, Jr.**, **Nelda Thompson** (Emeritus), **Mary Lou Winnick**, **Doug Wright**, and **Andy Sandberg**, Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO (ex-officio). **Indicates New Trustee*

The Hermitage has also significantly grown its staff over the past several seasons, with **Andres Larrea** being the newest addition to the team as Executive Assistant / Residency Coordinator. A Miami native, Larrea is a graduate of Florida State University with a B.A in theater studies and a minor in general business. Andres previously served as the executive producer of Side B Society, a theater collective in Tallahassee.

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, film, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in the 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, readings, interactive experiences, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year.

For more information about the Hermitage and upcoming programs, visit: **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.

The Hermitage Artist Retreat

Sarasota County, Florida
Andy Sandberg, Artistic Director and CEO

The Hermitage is a leading national arts incubator and non-profit artist retreat located on Manasota Key, Florida. For more than two decades, the Hermitage has invited 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 15 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 and accomplished group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the 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.

The Hermitage is supported by:

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts; as well as the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

BIOS

Carole Crosby

Prior to her law career, Carole Crosby was the principal harpist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, she has always had a passion for the study of law, which she pursued while playing in the Orchestra. Upon graduating as valedictorian, Crosby joined a major Detroit law firm. After a lifetime in the Detroit area, she and her husband Larry Wickless moved to Chicago in 2008 for his professional pursuits. There, she became actively involved in the Alliance Francaise de Chicago, serving on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee and as the Co-Chair of its Cultural Committee, organizing the yearly French Decorative Arts Symposium. She is also a Life Antiquarian the Art Institute of Chicago. Carole and Larry purchased a home in the Museum District of Sarasota, having spent part of the third grade here with her mother and twin sister. Her parents, aunt, and uncle later retired to Sarasota. Loving the life and culture here, Carole and her family decided to permanently relocate. In Sarasota, Crosby served as the President of the Asolo Repertory Theatre and has previously served as President of The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota and President of the Alliance Francaise de Sarasota. She is honored to serve as President of the Board of Trustees for the Hermitage.

Terry Brackett

Ms. Brackett is a retired attorney, having worked in the DC area both in government and private practice for 35 years. During that time, she served on the Coalition to End Gun Violence and volunteered for a number of women's organizations. She has served or is currently serving on the following boards: Asolo Repertory Theatre, WUSF, Library Foundation of Sarasota County, Protect Our Defenders (Advisory Board), Sarasota Canine Search and Rescue, UN Women – USA, and Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival (Advisory Board). Her interests include women's and LGBTQ issues, theater, and art. Her fun time has been spent playing tennis, riding horses, and attending theater and concerts. She has been an engaged supporter of the Hermitage, regularly attending programs and sponsoring both artist residencies and events. Ms. Brackett is a resident of Sarasota, Florida, but also spends part of her time in the DC area, as well as traveling both in the United States and abroad.

Full trustee bios can be found at HermitageArtistRetreat.org/Trustees.

Full staff bios can be found at HermitageArtistRetreat.org/Staff.

HermitageArtistRetreat.org