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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NASHVILLE OPERA SELECTED BY SOUTH ARTS TO RECEIVE RESILIENCE FUND GRANT

Nashville, TN—Nashville Opera has been selected to receive a **South Arts Resilience Fund grant in the amount of \$100,000** to support the [Nashville Opera Big Blue Fellowship Program](#), the Opera on Wheels education and outreach initiative, the newly commissioned and premiered [ONE VOTE WON](#), and strategic planning initiatives with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the South Arts Resilience fund is supporting new, region-specific activities to build the long-term resiliency of arts organizations battling the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through this fund, significant grants have been made available to small- and mid-sized arts organizations with a history of visionary leadership and impact. This fund is one of several support mechanisms created by South Arts in an effort to be responsive to the needs of arts organizations across the region. These grants will allow arts organizations to reimagine their work, increasing their resilience and sustainability as cities and states re-open.

When announcing the launch of the South Arts Resilience Fund, Susie Surkamer, CEO and President of South Arts, said, “Arts organizations are in uncharted territory and reinventing themselves quickly to deal with the current situations. There is a lot of creativity in figuring out how to share arts experiences remotely. With these funds, we will help organizations learn and grow from this with careful planning and deep investments into the next phase of their work.”

Nashville Opera CEO & Artistic Director John Hoomes remarked, “We are grateful to South Arts and to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for providing us with this crucial support. I believe that innovative art is more important than ever, and this grant will assist us in bringing impactful programming to the region and ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for our organization.”



Jennifer Whitcomb-Oliva, Tamica Nicole, and Brooke Leigh Davis star in ONE VOTE WON, one of the projects supported by this grant.

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About Nashville Opera

Nashville Opera, Tennessee's largest professional opera company, creates artistic experiences that elevate our world. Among the most successful regional companies in the country, Nashville Opera has presented three different world premiere operas since its inception in 1981. Mainstage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 10,000 people annually. Each year, Nashville Opera's extensive education and outreach touring program reaches approximately 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. Visit nashvilleopera.org for more information.

About South Arts

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization empowering artists, organizations, and communities, and increasing access to arts and culture.

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the State Arts Agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee — with additional funding from other public and private donors such as the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation — South Arts supports artists and organizations through a rich and responsive portfolio of grants, fellowships, and programs. Visit southarts.org for more information.

About the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and we believe that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom to be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Visit mellon.org for more information.