



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Arts Council Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **Save the Date for an Exclusive Event on September 24**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC (AUGUST 8, 2025) - Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County has celebrated a milestone few organizations can claim: their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the first arts council in the nation. Since 1949, the organization has championed the artists, organizations, and cultural experiences that define the region, providing funding, facilities, visibility, and opportunities that allow creativity to flourish and communities to thrive.

### **Reflecting on 75 Years: Past. Present. Possible.**

“Together, we’ve built something extraordinary. But today, we must speak honestly about where we are and where we must go. Like many nonprofits, we are facing an extraordinarily difficult financial moment. Despite our history of giving more than \$1 million annually in grants, operational support, and subsidies, this year we’ve had to make painful decisions, limiting or pausing funding to partners who have come to count on us. These decisions have been deeply felt, and we acknowledge that we could have communicated more clearly and consistently about our financial challenges and been more vocal about the urgency of our need for support. We’re struggling with the same pressures that impact many of the groups we serve, including funding cuts, rising costs, and facilities in need of urgent attention. And yet, even in this moment, we are focused not just on what’s behind us, but what’s ahead,” said Shannon Henry, Arts Council’s Interim President & CEO.

Guided by a strategic roadmap shaped by artists, donors, educators, and neighbors, the Arts Council is working to usher in a new era for the organization – one grounded in access, collaboration, and innovation.

### **Celebrating A Milestone: You’re Invited!**

To celebrate the organization’s milestones and pave the way for the future, the Arts Council will host a **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** event on **Wednesday, September 24** in the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts. The event takes place at 6:00pm, and will feature live performances, a reception with silent auction and

catered hors d'oeuvres, complimentary beverages, and an exciting live auction. Event sponsorships with exclusive access and perks are available, and single tickets start at \$125.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Arts Council's Director of Development, Eurikca Felipe Eustache ([eeustache@intothearts.org](mailto:eeustache@intothearts.org)).

To purchase individual event tickets, visit  
[www.intothearts.org/75anniversarycelebration](http://www.intothearts.org/75anniversarycelebration)

The Arts Council would like to thank patrons in the community for supporting local arts and culture, and invite them to support again. Make a gift to celebrate 75 years of arts and innovation, and secure the next 75 by donating online at [www.intothearts.org/75anniversarycelebration](http://www.intothearts.org/75anniversarycelebration)

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**Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County** is the leading advocate of the arts in our region and seeks to enhance and support the local artistic and cultural landscape. Established in 1949 as the first arts council in the nation, the pioneering organization has been a vital part of the community for 75 years. Arts Council owns and operates a campus in Downtown Winston-Salem which includes the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts and Hanesbrands Theatre, providing subsidized performance venues and classroom space for community arts organizations. In 2024, the organization hosted 360 on-campus events with 66,000 attendees and distributed over \$1.4 million in grants and programs, benefiting over 800,000 people. Additionally, Arts Council is the largest funder of Arts Education for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

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For additional information, please contact:

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