



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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Boston Foundation Grant Supports Exploration of Partnership Opportunities for The Celebrity Series of Boston and Emerson College

(Boston) The Celebrity Series of Boston announced today it has been awarded a \$75,000 strategic planning grant from The Boston Foundation to explore potential synergistic partnership opportunities with Emerson College. The grant is provided by the Permanent Fund for Boston at the Boston Foundation.

The grant will be used to explore opportunities for sustaining, expanding and diversifying Celebrity Series of Boston offerings while connecting Celebrity Series programming to Emerson College's multiple performance venues, faculty and students.

Celebrity Series and Emerson College have launched an 18-month planning process to address the goals stated above. Martha Jones, President and Executive Director of the Celebrity Series, will serve as the Project Director.

"The Celebrity Series of Boston has a long history of engaging Boston audiences with high quality performances in a variety of performing arts genres," said Jones, "This grant gives the Celebrity Series the opportunity to seek ways to build on its current offerings and to explore scenarios that will increase the variety of performing arts offerings in our community in a sustainable way."

Emerson President Jacqueline Liebergott said she hopes the planning process will "identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership that will be of benefit to the Emerson College community, to the arts community and the City of Boston. The Celebrity Series of Boston is the region's preeminent performing arts presenter, and Emerson is one of the leading colleges of communication and the arts in the country. Working together, I believe we can accomplish much more than we can acting alone."

"The Celebrity Series has served Greater Boston by bringing new voices and fresh ideas to broad audiences for more than 65 years," said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "In times like these it is critical for us to invest in organizations that, like the Celebrity Series, understand the power of innovation and the strength that can come from thoughtful partnerships."

About The Boston Foundation

The Boston Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, has an endowment of over \$900 million. Last year, the Foundation made grants of more than \$92 million to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of more than \$90 million. The Foundation is made up of about 850 separate charitable funds established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Foundation also serves as a civic leader, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to build community. For more information about the Boston Foundation and its grant making, visit www.tbf.org or call 617-338-1700.

About Emerson College

Emerson is the only major college or university in the country dedicated exclusively to communication and the arts. It is located in downtown Boston, at the gateway to the Theatre District and is the home of WERS (88.9 FM) and the Cutler Majestic Theatre. The College also has facilities in Los Angeles and the Netherlands.

Founded in 1880 as a small school of oratory, Emerson has evolved into a multi-faceted college that is internationally recognized for excellence in communication, communication sciences and disorders, journalism, performing arts, visual and media arts, writing and publishing. The College enrolls 3,300 fulltime undergraduates and 700 full and part-time graduate students from 48 states and several dozen countries.

Emerson's 22,000 alumni are active in communication, journalism, advertising, public relations, broadcasting, film, entertainment and other fields. They include, among many others, producers Norman Lear, Kevin Bright (*Friends*), Max Mutchnick (*Will and Grace*) and Vin Di Bona (*America's Funniest Home Videos*); actors Henry Winkler, Denis Leary and Richard Dysart; talk show host Jay Leno; journalist Morton Deane; Boston broadcasters Gene Lavanchy, Pam Cross, Susan Wornick and Ed Harding; and entrepreneur and makeup artist Bobbi Brown.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Founded in 1938, the Series incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1989. Each year, the Celebrity Series brings to Boston's major concert halls performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz and popular music performers, folk and ethnic performance groups, and other performing artists. The Celebrity Series' Arts, Education and Community program was initiated in 1984. It reaches over 20,000 students annually through more than 130 activities each year at 225 Boston area schools and organizations, including AileyCamp Boston, a six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on the Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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