



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FST TO ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NEW ARTS PLAZA AT PRIVATE EVENT ON FEBRUARY 28

(Sarasota, FL) — **Florida Studio Theatre** (FST) announces it will reveal plans for a major expansion project, the **FST Arts Plaza**, at a private event later this month. At this invite-only gathering, attendees will be able to see the designs and vision for the theatre's latest capital project before the public and will hear directly from FST's Producing Artistic Director **Richard Hopkins** about how this next stage of FST's campus growth will impact the future of Sarasota's Contemporary Theatre.

"This project is much more than a new facility; this is a game-changer for FST and our programming," said Hopkins. "We have greatly expanded our audience over the theatre's 48-year history, and we are thrilled to announce a project that has been years in the making."

It is part of FST's mission to make "theatre affordable and accessible to as many people as possible." With that objective in mind, FST has grown its audience to be one of the largest in the country, reaching over 225,000 attendees annually before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the largest attendance of any performing arts organization in the state of Florida.

Over the decades, FST's campus has expanded to accommodate the theatre's consistently expanding audience.

"When we have grown, it has always only been in response to a need," added Hopkins. "Today we have a need, and the FST Arts Plaza is our response. This new project will meet a wide range of the theatre's artistic demands, while also serving FST's growing audience. This important initiative will lay the groundwork for the theatre's future."

An official press release outlining the details of the project will be released on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, following this event. Members of the press interested in attending should contact **Lydia Baxter**, FST's Public Relations Associate, at [Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org](mailto:Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org) or 941.366.9017 ext. 338.

### **ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE**

Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is Sarasota's contemporary theatre. Founded in 1973, FST has grown to a village of five theatres located in the heart of Downtown, Sarasota. Each theatre is small in size and large in impact—providing intimate and engaging settings for high-quality, professional performances.

Today, FST has established itself as a major force in American Theatre. FST is the largest subscription theatre in the state of Florida and among the largest in the country, serving more than 230,000 live attendees each year across its diverse programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children's Theatre, The FST School, New Play Development, and FST Improv.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to as many people as possible. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins, FST develops theatre that speaks to our living, evolving, and dynamically changing world. Hip and historical, entertaining and challenging, we are the theatre where the street meets the elite — where everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

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