

## THRIVE Campaign Distributes First Round of Grants *More than \$3.1 million in grants distributed to eight local arts organizations*

**June 17, 2015** – The THRIVE Fund, administered by Foundation For The Carolinas, has announced the results of its inaugural grant cycle. THRIVE will distribute more than \$3.1 million in grants, some over multiple years, to eight local arts organizations.

2015 THRIVE grants will be distributed to the following organizations:

- Charlotte Symphony Orchestra – \$2,000,000
- Charlotte Ballet – \$369,100 (three-year grant)
- The Mint Museum – \$275,000 (two-year grant)
  - *Includes an award of \$250,000 for the benefit of the Levine Center for the Arts*
- Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture – \$215,000 (two-year grant)
- Children’s Theatre of Charlotte – \$200,000 (three-year grant)
- Bechtler Museum of Modern Art – \$53,380
  - *For the benefit of the Levine Center for the Arts*
- Opera Carolina – \$25,000
- McColl Center for Art + Innovation – \$15,000

The next grant cycle will be held in 2016.

Under the leadership of Hugh McColl, former Bank of America chairman and CEO, the THRIVE Fund was established in 2013 to provide financial stability for Charlotte’s cultural sector. Initially launched with the goal of supporting the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the campaign broadened to include more arts and cultural groups.

“Our initial fundraising was so successful, we jumped at the opportunity to raise more funds, and support the Charlotte cultural sector as a whole,” said Hugh McColl. “I’ve always believed that to have a great city, you need great arts. More importantly, we have great leadership in the business community, and they are the ones to thank.”

Among the first gifts to the campaign was \$2.5 million from The Leon Levine Foundation, as well as lead corporate gifts from Bank of America and Duke Energy, each contributing \$10 million to THRIVE. Other major donors include corporate and professional firms, as well as private foundations and individual philanthropists, who comprise the fund’s Board of Investors.

“Charlotte’s world-class arts and cultural institutions have been driving forces for our city’s local economy and influential in building our city’s identity,” said Charles Bowman, North Carolina and Charlotte president for Bank of America. “We see our gift to the THRIVE Fund as an opportunity to join with other local businesses, private foundations and individual donors to collectively make an immediate and long-term impact for Charlotte’s arts community.” Bowman will serve as chair of the Executive Committee of the THRIVE Fund’s Board of Investors.

Each major donor has a seat on the Board of Investors, and the Executive Committee will monitor the grants. The Executive Committee includes Bank of America’s Charles Bowman, Duke Energy’s Richard “Stick” Williams, The Leon Levine Foundation’s Tom Lawrence,

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# NEWS RELEASE

Jim Rogers, SPX Corporation's Chris Kearney, C. D. Spangler Foundation's Anna Nelson, Piedmont Natural Gas' Tom Skains, and Hugh McColl.

The total campaign fundraising currently stands at more than \$39 million. The campaign is expected to exceed \$40 million, with a number of requests still outstanding.

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## About Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$1.7 billion, the Foundation encourages and makes possible philanthropic giving by individuals of all means to benefit their communities. Visit [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org).

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