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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SAVE THE DATE FOR BIG NIGHT IN FOR THE ARTS,  
FEATURING ARIANA DEBOSE, MANDOLIN ORANGE, BRANFORD MARSALIS, MIKE WILEY**  
*Four Local Arts Organizations Join Forces to Rally Financial Support for the Arts on March 11*

DURHAM, NC—After nearly a year of closures and cancellations, the arts have suffered disproportionately from the destructive impact of the pandemic. For the first time ever, arts councils from Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties are joining forces to enlist support for the arts through a live event – **Big Night In for the Arts**. The regional fundraising initiative will broadcast live on [WRAL-TV](#) and livestream online on March 11 at 7pm. It will boast a super-star line-up, including [Ariana DeBose](#), Tony-nominated actress/singer/dancer and Raleigh native; [Mandolin Orange](#), nationally acclaimed folk music duo, based in Chapel Hill; [Branford Marsalis](#), three-time Grammy Award® winner and internationally renowned saxophonist, based in Durham; and [Mike Wiley](#), nationally acclaimed actor and playwright based in Chatham County. Additional national and local artists from each county to be announced.

In partnership with WRAL-TV, **Big Night In for the Arts** will address the impact of COVID-19 on the arts, and highlight the missions of the four organizations that lead and support the Triangle’s local arts infrastructure. The fundraising event, taking place about a year after the first stay-at-home orders were implemented, marks a critical step forward in helping local artists and arts/cultural organizations begin their path to recovery. Dollars raised will go toward arts programming, initiatives for equity in the arts, and artist/arts organizations’ relief.

“Without question, arts help heal and restore a community,” said Joel Davis, Vice President and General Manager of WRAL-TV & FOX 50. “The arts, in many different forms, bring joy, restore peace, and sometimes serve as a critical eye to the human condition. Through this lens, we recognize that supporting programming and fundraising like this is more important than ever, moving forward.”

Research shows the arts serve as an avenue for emotional expression and can be particularly therapeutic during stressful times. With the pandemic, arts venues have been the first entities to close and will likely be the last to reopen. Based on data from Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, a report authored by Americans for the Arts in 2015, the arts in the Triangle create more than 31,000 full-time jobs and upwards of \$850 million in total annual economic activity. The arts are essential to the economic recovery our region desperately needs. With this in mind, organizers for **Big Night In for the Arts** have vital fundraising goals.

Arts supporters can join the effort prior to the event as sponsors or donate live during the event. Audiences and arts enthusiasts who have enjoyed the arts across the Triangle for years can make a gift to benefit the four

counties collectively or designate which specific county they would like to support. Every dollar helps ensure the arts in the Triangle will survive and thrive long after this pandemic has lifted.

“The arts are so important for our community, especially now during the pandemic and after this crisis to help us heal and recover. Big Night In for the Arts is a key effort to save and lift up the arts in the Triangle region,” explained Dr. Constanza Gómez-Joines, President of the Durham Arts Council Board of Trustees.

Join us on March 11 and show your support of the arts! For more information on the talented artists headlining this event, sponsorship opportunities, or to donate prior to the event, go to [BigNightIn.org](http://BigNightIn.org).

### **ABOUT BIG NIGHT IN FOR THE ARTS**

Born out of a love and respect for the arts, [Big Night In for the Arts](http://BigNightIn.org) is a regional fundraising event to help local artists and arts/cultural organizations begin on a path of recovery and reentry after the pandemic has lifted. It represents the first time arts councils from Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties have joined together in support of a mutual cause. In partnership with WRAL-TV, the [Chatham Arts Council](#), the [Durham Arts Council](#), the [Orange County Arts Commission](#), and the [United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County](#) are working together to maximize efforts to rally robust financial support for artists and arts/cultural organizations on March 11. For more information, please visit [BigNightIn.org](http://BigNightIn.org).

### **ABOUT THE DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL**

The Durham Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and local arts agency dedicated to supporting the arts in Durham and the entire Triangle Region in North Carolina and has served the community since 1954. Each year DAC serves over 400,000 visitors and program participants, over 2,000 artists, and more than 300 arts and cultural organizations through classes, artist residencies, exhibits, festivals, grants programs, technical support, creative economy initiatives, arts advocacy and information services. Durham Arts Council, Inc. is a catalyst in the cultural development of Durham - it leads, inspires, and promotes excellence in and access to the creation, experience and active support of the arts for all the people of our community. For more information call 919.560.ARTS(2787) or visit our website at [www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org).

### **ABOUT WRAL-TV'S PARENT COMPANY**

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