

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Peabody Auditorium Foundation Brings the Arts to Volusia County Schools!**

**Daytona Beach, FL** – The Peabody Auditorium Foundation (PAF) announces an exciting new program in concert with Volusia County Schools, bringing both live cultural performances and scholarships to school children in the community.

The new **In-School Touring and Scholarship program** will benefit over 7,000 students in Volusia County Schools beginning this fall. The unprecedented annual program will be part of the Peabody Auditorium Foundation's **Youth+Art=Success!** outreach program. The new program was approved by the Volusia County School Board at its August 10 meeting. **The Youth+Art=Success!** program provides local students, including some who are underserved due to financial need, with the opportunity to attend cultural programs, free of charge. The programs amount to a \$45,000 annual donation to Volusia County Schools and are sponsored and funded by the Peabody Auditorium Foundation through annual fundraising efforts and generous corporate and individual donors.

“The new In-School Touring and Scholarship program is the culmination of months of research and discussion amongst our board, theatrical companies, and our esteemed local educators, led by retired and revered Volusia County Schools Principal and PAF Board Member, Dr. Maryann Bull,” stated Rene Bell Adams, the Board’s President. “Dr. Bull and our Executive Director, Kathy Berman, led the charge on this initiative and were essential to this amazing pivot we were able to make in the wake of the pandemic when we were unable to host fundraising events, much less invite students to participate.”

The In-School Touring Program is for students of all ages, and the components of that and the scholarship opportunities break down within the different grade levels as follows:

**Elementary and Middle Schools:** Beginning in fall 2021, PAF will offer free in-school cultural programs at 13 VCS elementary schools and five VCS middle schools.

#### **High Schools:**

**1)** Beginning in 2022, PAF will underwrite the cost of providing selected VCS high school students with a live cultural experience. Four high schools will be selected annually and provided with complimentary tickets to attend a professional theatrical performance at the historic Peabody Auditorium.

**2)** Beginning in 2022, PAF's Arts & Culture Scholarship Program will award 10 merit-based college scholarships annually to high school seniors who plan to pursue a cultural education in an arts field. One scholarship will be awarded at each of VCS' 10 high schools.

“Volusia County is very grateful to the Peabody Auditorium Foundation for creating this innovative program to enable our students to see live cultural performances and to award scholarships to outstanding graduates who plan to pursue studies in the arts in college,” said Volusia County Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Fritz.

“Our schools offer a broad range of performing arts classes in music, dance, and theater, and we know that cultural arts are important to students’ academic development and success in school and life,” Dr. Fritz said. “The new **In-School Touring and Scholarship program** will be a wonderful addition to those experiences.”

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The Peabody Auditorium Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the Peabody Auditorium and raise funds to support community outreach programs, capital improvements, and establish an endowment to support arts and culture in Volusia County. All gifts made to the Peabody Auditorium Foundation are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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