



PRESS RELEASE

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BIG ARTS EXPLORING COMMUNITY OPTIONS FOR FORMER THEATER PROPERTY

Sanibel Island, FL, June 4, 2024 — The property located at 2200 Periwinkle Way, a building long owned by BIG ARTS (Barrier Island Group for the Arts), will be razed this month. Major structural, safety and code issues and the significant damage caused by Hurricane Ian has made the building, formerly known as BIG ARTS Stauss Theater, uninhabitable.

Rene Savarise, Chair of the BIG ARTS Board, commented, "After long and diligent analysis, it became clear that trying to renovate the existing building would be cost prohibitive. The board simply could not approve that use of donor dollars."

BIG ARTS Board of Directors and management are plotting a new future for the property and considering a range of possibilities to address community needs that do not duplicate services and programs currently on Sanibel and Captiva.

"The board's and my guiding principle will be to make sure that our choice for re-visioning of the property is guided by the needs of the Sanibel and Captiva communities," said Lee Ellen Harder, Executive Director.

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ABOUT BIG ARTS

Now in its fourth decade, BIG ARTS a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides an array of quality entertainment, arts and education programs that enrich and nurture the lives of Sanibel and Captiva residents and visitors. Through professionally-led arts, enrichment classes and workshops for students of all ages, we provide stimulating and informative lectures with renowned national thought leaders, as well as dynamic visual and performing arts presentations and experiences. For information 239-395-0900 or info@bigarts.org.