

Virginia Arts Festival welcomes back Laurie Cherry as Director of Development Research

(Norfolk) The Virginia Arts Festival is excited to announce the return of former Festival staff member, Laurie Cherry as new Director of Development Research. Ms. Cherry will be responsible for managing all aspects of the Virginia Arts Festival's grant program. She worked as the Festival's Annual Fund Manager from 2002-2004. "We are delighted to have Laurie Cherry rejoin our staff at the Virginia Arts Festival," said General Manager, Scott Jackson. "Over the past several years, it has become abundantly clear that an organization's ability to excel as it grows is entirely dependent upon its ability to attract and retain outstanding employees. When Laurie's husband, who is a LTC in the US Army, was transferred we knew that we had lost a great employee, and now we know that we have a great employee back."

Laurie has served as Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Affairs at Methodist University and Managing Director of Cape Fear Regional Theatre, both in North Carolina. She began her development career at the West Point Association of Graduates, the fundraising organization for the United States Military Academy, and has over 15 years of non-profit experience. Laurie is an experienced grant writer and fundraiser in both education and the arts. She holds a Master's degree in Human Resource Development from Webster University and is a military spouse and mother of three.

The Virginia Arts Festival was established in 1997 as a cultural tourism initiative by the city of Norfolk to promote travel to Hampton Roads. Each spring, internationally acclaimed artists from around the globe team up with the best of the regions own professional arts organizations to present a dazzling lineup of music, theatre and dance. Truly a regional collaboration, Festival events now take place in ten cities across Hampton Roads in concert halls, performing arts centers, opera houses, theatres, museums, outdoor stages, and historic churches, all within a 60-minute drive. Now in its twelfth season, the Festival has established itself as one of the premier cultural events in the Mid-Atlantic U.S. The 12th Annual Festival is April 18- May 26, 2008. Season subscriptions are on sale now and single tickets will go on sale February 11, 2008. To purchase tickets, call 757-282-2800 or toll-free 1-877-741-ARTS (2787) or visit www.vafest.org.