



1201 McKibben Street | Newberry, SC 29108
803-276-6264 | NewberryOperaHouse.com

FORTE STAGES AT NEWBERRY: EXPANDING THE STAGE FOR NEWBERRY'S PERFORMING ARTS

For more than 25 years, Newberry Opera House has brought extraordinary performances to our community. Now, we're working to create more opportunities for our community to take the stage.

Newberry Opera House has established itself as a regional destination for professional performing arts. But the very characteristics that make our historic theater special — its traditional stage, fixed seating, and busy performance calendar — also limit the types of programs and activities we can accommodate.

FORTE STAGES is envisioned as a natural extension of our mission, creating a dedicated, flexible space for local theater, smaller performances, rehearsals, performing arts education, and community programming. It will also provide room for existing educational and outreach programs through Newberry Arts for All, building on work that began in 2011 with the Dufford programs serving local students.

This isn't about duplicating what already exists. It's about creating the space and capacity to do more. The proposed redevelopment of the long-vacant former Market Basket building would provide opportunities for Newberry College's theater program, expanded partnerships with the School District of Newberry County, and other community uses, such as a potential indoor location for the Farmers Market during colder months.

A Partnership Built Around a Shared Vision

FORTE STAGES is a Newberry Opera House-led initiative being developed in collaboration with Newberry County and the City of Newberry. Each partner plays an important role in helping transform this vacant property into a community asset.

Newberry County, which owns the former Market Basket building, is working to transfer the property to the City of Newberry for the required grant period.

The City of Newberry is facilitating the Rural Development Initiative grant application, creating an opportunity to secure public funding toward the redevelopment of the property.

Newberry Opera House is leading the project's vision, programming, and fundraising efforts and will be responsible for securing the majority of the funding necessary to bring FORTE STAGES to life.

Following the required grant period, the property is expected to return to County ownership and be leased to Newberry Opera House for its ongoing use and operation. This partnership combines public-sector cooperation with nonprofit leadership and investment. The City and County are helping make the redevelopment possible, while Newberry Opera House is taking the lead in raising the funds and developing the programming that will bring the space to life.

The project remains in its planning and funding stages, and grant funding has not yet been awarded. There is still considerable work ahead, but the shared objective is clear.



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We want to transform a vacant building into a place where performing arts can grow, students can discover new possibilities, and local artists and organizations have more opportunities to create and perform.

For more than two decades, Newberry Opera House has helped make our community a destination for the performing arts. FORTE STAGES offers an opportunity to extend that legacy by creating more room for the talent, creativity, and potential already here in Newberry.

Great things are on the horizon at Newberry Opera House — and for the entire Newberry community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Pinckney Smith".

Anne Pinckney Smith
Executive Director
Newberry Opera House