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The Lobero Theatre Foundation

Welcomes New Board President, Charles de L'Arbre

Santa Barbara, June 6, 2023 – The Lobero Theatre Foundation is pleased to announce Charles de L'Arbre as their new Board President. Charles is CEO of Santa Barbara Travel Bureau, a family company started in 1947, and has had a long association with both theater and the Lobero. He formerly enjoyed a long career as a stage actor and voiceover artist, performing in several shows on the Lobero stage and reading a number of times for “Speaking of Stories.” Before taking on his new role as the Lobero’s Board President, he served 20 years on the Lobero Board, spanning two tenures starting in 1976 to present. In addition, Charles has served as an officer on the Boards of The Santa Barbara Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Company, The Music Academy, and UCSB Drama Affiliates, and was also a volunteer fire fighter for 12 years. His wife, Barbara, is also passionate about the Lobero, having served as a past Board member who is currently an active member of The Lobero Associates – a dynamic women’s auxiliary group who have raised more than a million dollars for the Lobero over the last five decades.

As the Lobero has played such a significant and historic role in the cultural life of Santa Barbara over a 150-year period, Charles is impressed by the fact that it remains such a vibrant force, and credits the team that keeps the building alive, technically up-to-date, and filled with artists. This includes the staff, board, and volunteers, as well as the many individual contributors and supporting foundations which have kept this jewel of a theater in the spotlight. He felt honored to serve under three superb Presidents this time around: Jeff Devine, Amy MacLeod, and Steve Hayes brought consistency and vision to the Foundation, along with the theater’s excellent Board.

During that time, a capital campaign raised over \$7,000,000 to renovate the theater. Additional capital campaigns have resulted in new lighting and sound systems, the installation of a solar system, and 2 endowment campaigns (The Heritage and the Ovation), are helping to assure the Lobero's continued success by supporting the building and providing program underwriting.

Mr. De L'Arbre is hopeful that the Lobero can partner with other community arts organizations in expanding the range of their presentations. They are continuing to diversify the representation on their Board and are working hard to make the Lobero even more accessible to local presenters. For years, he felt that the Lobero was something of a forgotten treasure. However, his colleagues have been working diligently to bring the Lobero back into the consciousness of the community and Charles hopes to be able to make his contribution as well.

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