

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

May 1, 2020

Dear friends,

We are so grateful for the many generous contributions to Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe during the recent 2020 Giving Challenge! More than 700 donors stepped up to give to WBTT, allowing us to raise more than \$190,000 dollars in donations and challenge matches in just 24 hours! Out of almost 700 local nonprofit organizations, we had the seventh highest donation amount, thanks to so many of you. We also thank the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for presenting the 2020 Giving Challenge and The Patterson Foundation for strengthening the giving with their match of all gifts from unique donors up to \$100.

We are amazed and humbled by the community's response. Not only do the Giving Challenge results show that our community wants to ensure that everyone's basic needs are met during this crisis, they also reveal that people believe the arts are essential. The generosity of donors sends a clear message that our community wants the arts to continue to enrich our lives now to the extent possible, and that it's important for arts organizations to be here and to thrive when we can all safely return to a more normal situation.

Although the COVID-19 crisis is financially challenging, we are fortunate that we have not had to lay off any staff members. We are all still busy with various projects! With your support before and during the Giving Challenge, along with receiving a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, we are able to reach out virtually to patrons like you, young artists and Stage of Discovery students, as well as work toward presenting our exciting 2020-2021 season.

Once again, thank you all for Keeping the Dream Alive for Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. We love you with our Heart & Soul...see you at the theatre!



Nate Jacobs
Founder & Artistic Director



Julie Leach
Executive Director



Debra Flynt-Garrett
Development Director