BOUNDLESS is the promise of our students, the dedication of our faculty and the enduring spirit of our supporters, friends and alumni. BOUNDLESS represents the next era of the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston. 

Creativity is not solely the domain of the arts. It is the key hallmark in entrepreneurship and innovation, permeating all academic fields. We provide students from across campus with a strong education that develops skills required in the 21st-century marketplace, such as critical thinking, problem solving and creative expression.

The School of the Arts enriches students’ lives and the community through the quality and abundance of its educational and cultural programs, including award-winning theatre productions, the International Piano Series, the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and performances and programs that are part of Spoleto Festival USA and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

The School of the Arts is reaching forward with a spirit of new enterprise. It is critical that we play a leading role in educating young artists and partnering with the community to maintain the city of Charleston as a leading cultural center.

Now is the time to push beyond conventional pathways to knowledge, beyond the limits of our campus footprint and beyond our very own expectations.

Now is the time to become a bolder, ever-stronger College of Charleston.

"The theatre department still means so much to me. Joy, Todd, Evan: These professors continue to be my inspiration and my constant reminder to keep exploring all the dimensions of theatre." - Peyton Pugmire ’02, director of theatre for young audiences, The Boston Conservatory

BOUNDLESS: The Campaign for the College of Charleston

BOUNDLESS is a $125 million comprehensive fundraising initiative and your opportunity to shape the next era of arts education. The magnitude of our goal reflects the breadth of our aspiration, to create a bold future for the arts — one that educates the whole person and fosters collaborative exploration — all leading to new ideas and contemporary forms of creative and cultural expression that strengthen both community and society.

BOUNDLESS is the vehicle to achieve this vision. We are asking you to consider an investment in one or more of the campaign’s five strategic priorities:

1. COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS to attract and support the next generation of exceptional students, scholars and artists;
2. WORLD-CLASS FACULTY, VISITING ARTISTS AND LECTURERS who inspire greatness in our students;
3. DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, which build on the region’s rich heritage and offer opportunities for students to think creatively and express themselves within the living laboratory that is Charleston;
4. STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES such as a recording studio, black box theatre, concert hall and design studios that enhance educational and cultural programming; and
5. THE DEAN’S EXCELLENCE FUND, which has an immediate impact on the students and faculty who make the School of the Arts exceptional.
The Power of Partnership

Moving boldly forward while preserving our distinctive identity will require your dedication and partnership. As federal and state support for higher education declines, our success requires philanthropy.

By uniting the power of your generosity with the untapped potential of the School of the Arts, we can seize a unique opportunity. As an investor in this campaign, you will shape the next era of arts education at a time when the importance of educating students to be creative and innovative in their pursuits has never been more critical.

The School of the Arts’ history of accomplishments can be attributed to students, faculty, staff and alumni who push the bounds of creativity; to the artist-scholars who provide leadership and inspiration; and to the art patrons and friends who have so generously supported the school and its programs over the years.

Become our partner in strengthening the School of the Arts as a nationally recognized institute of arts education.

“For nearly a decade, the School of the Arts played home to endless inspirations and formative partnerships, honing my skills as an arts professional. Today, I am poised to act, to give back and thank the College and SOTA for their unmeasured generosity, which was paramount in developing who I am today.”

– Lisa Decker Roy ’06, B.A. in communications, and ’08, B.A. in arts management

“We want students to know practical things – how boards of directors help to run and govern an organization, staffing and budgeting. Entrepreneurial spirit is what we teach, and experiential learning is a significant part of the program.”

– Karen Chandler, director of the arts management program and co-founder/principal of the Charleston Jazz Initiative
SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships influence the future of those who receive them, and they are also a powerful way to drive the future of the School of the Arts. BOUNDLESS will increase merit-based and need-based scholarships for each department or program in the School of the Arts. This support is critical for recruiting the most talented students and eases the strain that they experience when trying to juggle a part-time job with classes, practice, research, rehearsals and performances.

We also seek funding to support internships and assistantships that extend the College experience beyond the classroom, especially in fields such as arts management and historic preservation and community planning. These types of experiential learning opportunities ensure that young artists and arts leaders are given every chance to flourish and are not excluded, through sheer lack of money, from pursuing their dreams.

WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

World-class faculty is a key component of the College becoming a nationally prominent university. Our professors are much more than stellar teachers. They are research partners, mentors and artistic innovators.

Competition among universities to attract and retain the most talented faculty is intense. The best professors recruit, teach and motivate students to reach their full creative potential. BOUNDLESS will establish endowed professorships and chairs to attract the best artists and scholars to the College and to retain them.

BOUNDLESS will also establish endowed residencies and visiting artist programs in each of the school’s academic areas to complement the efforts of our full-time faculty and expose students to new ways of thinking, methodologies and national industry experiences.

“I have been hugely impressed with the way in which the students are so involved in all aspects of the process. It has been a total privilege to collaborate with them to bring this beautiful play to life.”

- Miranda Cromwell, director of young company at the venerable Bristol Old Vic Theatre in Bristol, England, was a 2014 visiting artist and directed the Tony Award-winning Dancing at Lughnasa
DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BOUNDLESS will expand academic opportunities and hands-on experiential tools for our students to reach their full potential. It also will enrich academic curriculum and cultural programs that build upon Charleston’s rich cultural history. Some examples of outside-the-classroom learning that our students engage in include:

- ARTS MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIPS, which are required for all arts management majors;
- CHARLESTON JAZZ INITIATIVE, which is a multi-year research project that documents the African-American jazz tradition in Charleston and beyond;
- HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, which is a multi-disciplinary laboratory that offers students a chance to learn gallery fundamentals and an annual, juried student art exhibition;
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY PLANNING STUDIOS, which offer on-site, hands-on experiences, and
- IN THE MIX, which showcases music industry exchanges with professional musicians and industry leaders.

When you make a gift designated to a specific academic program within the arts, you are pledging your support to professors and their visions for how to successfully teach our students and help them achieve excellence in their craft. Your gift will go directly to students in the arts discipline you love the most, whether it is invested in sophisticated equipment upgrades in performance spaces; stipends for travel to student national and international competitions, performances or conferences; or enhancements to our exhibition spaces.

“The opportunity to study at the Sotheby’s Institute of Art in New York transformed my professional identity and provided international arts experience.”

- Emily Farris ’15, 2014 Summer Study Award recipient (left) with former CofC faculty member Lori Kornegay of Sotheby’s Institute of Art
The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art provides students hands-on experience, alongside the Halsey’s professional staff, working with artists from around the world. The Halsey Institute has been producing adventurous exhibitions, award-winning catalogues and videos, and a comprehensive website for 30 years.
An excellent arts program needs modern studios, rehearsal spaces, performance halls of various sizes and state-of-the-art classrooms in order to realize most fully its educational goals. The School of the Arts’ physical spaces welcome the public to the College of Charleston and serve as a tangible example of our vision to become a renowned arts program. They help to define us and serve as a major resource for our faculty, staff and students, as well as the community.

BOUNDLESS will support a renovated Albert Simons Center for the Arts – a much-needed facility that brings together practitioners and studios from many different artistic spheres. The original center was constructed to serve 800 students a year. Today, it serves more than 5,000 students each semester. The proposed renovations to the building will enhance the school’s academic programs, productions and hands-on learning opportunities. With your support, spaces in the renovated facility will include modern performance spaces and areas where students from across disciplines can gather jointly to rehearse, collaborate as teams and engage in conversations about the arts.

“The Simons Guild Scholarship, funded by the Friends of the School of the Arts and the Dean’s Excellence Fund, enabled me to match the materials I needed with the ambitions and creative vision I developed in my early years with the School of the Arts.”

- Kevin McLean ’13, studio art major and Classics minor

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

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PRIORITY NO. 4

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PRIORITY NO. 5

DEAN’S EXCELLENCE FUND

Through the Dean’s Excellence Fund, you can be a philanthropist to the College of Charleston year after year. Gifts are a vital source of institutional momentum because they provide funding for scholarships, research and visiting artist programs and encourage the development of new academic and cultural experiences. Your support can give a vital start to student artists who will develop their talents in Charleston and then go on to success in their careers.

The Dean’s Excellence Fund goes to work immediately, meeting the most critical needs and priorities. These gifts also provide flexibility to seize opportunities as they emerge. For alumni, parents and friends, gifts to this fund are the ultimate vote of confidence in everything for which the College of Charleston School of the Arts stands for, and everything it will become.
JOIN US.

For nearly 25 years, the College of Charleston School of the Arts has served as an integral part of the College of Charleston and the broader metropolitan arts community. It is impossible to imagine this city, renowned for its vibrant arts and culture, without the school’s talented students and faculty performing, exhibiting and working in its historic and emerging art venues.

As the College enters this historic comprehensive campaign and the School of the Arts celebrates a milestone anniversary, we are positioned and committed to take the next steps toward national prominence in arts education.

We cannot do this without you.

Your leadership, involvement and investment in our next 25 years are crucial to ensuring that the School of the Arts continues to grow and thrive. Your gift ensures that an arts education will remain a vital part of the College of Charleston and will continue to impact Charleston’s arts community.

With boundless enthusiasm,

VALERIE B. MORRIS, DEAN