



227 Bridge Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460

CONTACT: Brendan Carr Marketing Director 610-917-1228 brendan@thecolonialtheatre.com

Mary Foote to end 20-year tenure as Founding Executive Director of the Colonial Theatre

For Immediate Release:

Mary Foote, executive director of the historic Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, has announced that she will step down from that position later this year to pursue new challenges. She has served in her role at the nonprofit movie theatre and live concert venue for 20 years.

“With the completion of our major expansion project and the opening of our remarkable new wing, it just felt like the right time to move on to new pursuits,” Foote said. “It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with the theatre board and staff to reopen this beloved venue for movies and concerts, see it grow, and watch it and the community both thrive.”

Foote’s tenure dates back to 1996 when the Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation (PAEDCO) purchased the Colonial with the goal of restoring and reopening it as a community theatre. Foote was one of many area residents who envisioned the Colonial as the cornerstone of Phoenixville’s 21st-century renaissance.

She and other loyal patrons of the Colonial shared a strong interest in saving the theatre, which first opened in 1903. Foote helped form the Association for the Colonial Theater (ACT), and the Association signed an agreement to purchase the theatre. For the next year, Foote and others worked toward reopening the Colonial, organizing a board, developing a business plan, and conducting market research.

After several months of repairs and renovations, The Colonial Theatre reopened in 1999 with Foote guiding the day-to-day operations as executive director.

Since then, the Colonial, under her leadership, has grown in size and stature. Today, thanks to the success to date of the Bank on the Arts campaign, the Colonial boasts three theatres, a spacious lobby, and expanded patron amenities.

“Mary’s leadership has been vital to the success of the Colonial and influential to the revitalization of Phoenixville,” said Marian Moskowitz, president of ACT.

“We are incredibly grateful to Mary for her leadership and her commitment to making the theatre a community treasure. As we search for the next executive director, we look forward to using Mary’s blueprint as the foundation for the Colonial’s future endeavors.”

Former ACT president Kenneth B. Mumma is chairing a Search Committee to identify candidates to succeed Foote.

“I would never say ‘we’re looking for Mary’s replacement,’ because Mary is irreplaceable,” Mumma said. “Instead, we will find the right successor to lead the Colonial during its next stage.”

ACT expects to name a new executive director by late spring. Foote will remain in her role until the transition in leadership takes place.

#

Located in the heart of downtown Phoenixville, The Colonial Theatre is owned and operated by the Association for the Colonial Theatre (ACT), a nonprofit corporation. The historic, three-screen venue consists of the original 658-seat theatre and two new theatres in the adjacent Bank of Phoenixville building. Programming includes first-run, independent and classic films, young audience shows, concerts, and community events. For upcoming shows and times visit www.thecolonialtheatre.com.