



Media Contact:

Emily Simmons, Director of Marketing & Events

emily@thecolonialtheatre.com

(610) 917-1228

**Phoenixville's Nonprofit Colonial Theatre Announces New Executive Director,
Jennifer Carlson**

*The Connecticut River Museum's Outgoing Leader Heads to Historic Chester County
Venue*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - - Phoenixville, PA (Chester County) - - February 28, 2022 - -

Jennifer Carlson, a leader with decades of experience in historic preservation and the arts as well as ties to multiple Greater Philadelphia organizations, has been tapped to head the century-old Colonial Theatre as its new Executive Director. Her hiring is the culmination of a three-month, national search conducted by Dunleavy & Associates of Plymouth Meeting. She is preceded by Ken Metzner, who departed in August 2021 to helm Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

Carlson currently serves as Executive Director of the Connecticut River Museum in Essex, Connecticut, which preserves the maritime heritage and marine environment of that waterway. The Museum recently acquired two Coast Guard inspected vessels for educational river cruises that diversify that nonprofit's resources for outdoor recreational and educational experiences.

Prior to this, she advanced other leading cultural institutions in the Greater Philadelphia region, including Germantown's Wyck Historic House. As Executive Director of that National Historic Landmark, Carlson helped secure a Save America's Treasures federal grant. She also developed its Home Farm Club: a collaboratively-run kitchen garden. Carlson gained theater management experience as Program Director for Historic Philadelphia; Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications at Temple University's Boyer College of Music & Dance; and Assistant Dean at La Salle University's School of Arts & Sciences. Early in her career, she was also a Box Office Manager at People's Light and Theatre Company in Malvern. The central Pennsylvania native graduated from Temple University with a degree in theater and spent her high school years at the historic Capitol Theater (now Appel Center for the Performing Arts).

Carlson has dedicated her career to providing shared experiences in arts spaces, which she views as platforms for education, human connection, and empowerment. “The mission of the Colonial Theatre - to nurture community by celebrating the power of film and the performing arts to entertain, inform, and reveal meaning - is more important now than ever,” she emphasized. “I look forward to engaging with the vibrant Phoenixville community, restoring the historic 1903 auditorium, and seeking out ways to ensure its future as a premiere multi-arts center.”

Since the nineties, the Colonial has operated as an independent, nonprofit film and live venue. It grew from a single-screen theater to a three-screen venue in 2017 following a major building expansion into another adjacent historic site: the Bank of Phoenixville building. Necessary improvements to its 120-year old, original auditorium (featured in the 1958 sci-fi movie, *The Blob*) have been delayed by the pandemic and are needed to increase the diversity of live programs.

“Jennifer’s breadth and depth of experience in the arts sector will undoubtedly help the Colonial grow and expand its audience, impact on the community, and contribution to the region’s cultural offering,” stated Board President, Suzanne V. Norris.

###

*Association for the Colonial Theatre (ACT) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. (EIN # 23-2846336). The venue features three distinctive theaters housed in two conjoined historic buildings in the walkable heart of downtown Phoenixville. Known for its starring role in the 1958 sci-fi horror film, *The Blob*, the Colonial offers new independent and classic films from all genres as well as live concerts, comedy, and theater organ performances. The theater serves beer, wine, and traditional movie theater concessions and is currently open Wednesday through Sunday. For more information on upcoming films and live events, including the in-person return of Blobfest July 8-10, 2022, follow the Colonial Theatre on social media and visit thecolonialtheatre.com.*

Click for Photo. Photo credit: Mike Ceci