CULTURE BRIGHT:

A WINTER ESSAY SERIES

Reflections on art, culture, and the future *of the Quad Cities from* ***Jen Lewis-Snyder,*** *President & CEO of The Cultural Trust.*

Before The Applause



"Before the applause reaches the stage, it belongs to them, too. Their work deserves recognition."

Before the parade begins, there are people who have already been working for months.

They have answered questions, coordinated schedules, checked equipment, prepared spaces, and solved problems most guests will never know existed. They will spend much of the holiday season helping other families make memories. This morning, we are making room for theirs.

The Cultural Trust is hosting a Morning of Gratitude at Common Chord for our Legacy Partner staff and their families.

Together, we will gather to cheer on our partner Quad City Arts as the Festival of Trees parade moves through downtown Davenport.

There will be cocoa, music, and time to enjoy the morning together.

More meaningfully, there will be a chance for the people behind the lovely experiences to sit in a rare seat: as our guests.

It will be a morning with a different kind of storytelling.

One that allows their children and partners to know what all those meetings and long days help create.

Culture Bright brings six organizations into an unprecedented collaborative space. Together Common Chord, Figge Art Museum, Putnam Museum and Science Center, Quad City Arts, Quad City Botanical Center, and Quad City Symphony Orchestra harness their unique talents to make our arts and cultural scene brighter together.

Each has its own mission and team. Across those teams are people who understand the particular satisfaction of watching a room, a garden, or a stage fill with guests after months of preparation.

They also understand the work that continues when everyone else has gone home.

At The Cultural Trust, we provide annual unrestricted funding to these Legacy Partners.

That support helps sustain the people and operations behind their missions.

Through Culture Bright, we also help create relationships across organizations, so colleagues can share ideas, share resources and contribute their strengths.

A morning together gives those relationships another place to grow. Someone's child meets the person whose name keeps coming up at the dinner table.

Colleagues who usually see each other across a planning meeting can stand together and enjoy the parade. Families get to experience the community their work helps serve.

Common Chord provides the gathering place. Quad City Arts brings the parade. Staff from across the partnership bring their families and their applause.

The arrangement says something about the region we are trying to build: when one partner creates a moment for the community, the others show up to celebrate it.

Outside, the Festival of Trees parade offers its familiar invitation to look up, wave, and let the season begin. For many families, this is the November morning they remember from their own childhoods.

Today, another generation gets its turn.

Our Morning of Gratitude is a hosted gathering for Legacy Partner staff and families. The appreciation behind it extends to everyone who gives their working days to this community's cultural life.

If you enjoy the parade, a concert, a museum visit, or an evening beneath the lights this season, take a moment to thank someone for helping to make it happen.

They may be holding a radio, answering a question, or quietly making the next part of your visit work.

Before the applause reaches the stage, it belongs to them, too. Their work deserves recognition.

Find the series lineup and ticket information at CultureBright.org.

Culture Matters Here.
And it always will.

Come see why Culture Matters Here. And why it always will.

To learn more about the Culture Bright Winter Series go to CultureBright.org.

The Cultural Trust

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