

by Mary Ann Hutcheson

# Anne Pinckney Smith



“If we invest in the arts and the arts invest in people, the outcomes are so much more palatable. Small towns have the same challenges as bigger towns with less resources. It is the responsibility of organizations like ours to address the challenges and do our part to help make our community thrive,” Anne Pickney Smith, the new

Executive Director of the Newberry Opera House. Anne knows the power of the arts and it’s gentle, subliminal influence to inspire anyone within it’s reach.

With a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the College of Charleston, Smith began her career working in Human Resources for the Carolinas HealthCare System and transitioned into fundraising for the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation. Over time she discovered a natural affinity for fundraising. Eventually, she married and moved to Newberry. She joined the Opera House in 2019, eight months before the pandemic that would close theaters across the country. She feels that she was in the right place at the right time.

The stress of uncertainty permeated staff meetings during the shut-down; the staff voted unanimously to open the theater as soon as Governor McMaster gave permission. “We had a fantastic team coming out of COVID-19 and we kept that team together,” Anne explains. “A good leader

knows when to step aside and let that team fly.” The team never missed a beat.

The Newberry Opera House has been the heart of Newberry County since its dedication in 1882. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1969, it is a fully restored historic building that has welcomed numerous Grammy winners, internationally renowned performers, as well as regional and local acts.

The theater seats 412 people making it an intimate, comfortable but unforgettable delight for all of the senses. Every seat in the house has access to excellent sound and phenomenal visual displays that will move even the most conservative people. It is a hidden gem in South Carolina, the perfect venue for not only watching live performances, but a space where viewers feel a connection with the performers themselves. Downtown Newberry has a host of inviting restaurants, flowing walkways and parks, and eclectic shops to complete your adventure. For event schedule and ticket information visit [NewberryOperaHouse.com](http://NewberryOperaHouse.com). ■

