



From the Desk of Scott Nolte



Dear Taproot Patrons,

I'm writing to tell you some important personal news: **Pam and I will be stepping away from our current roles and retiring from Taproot Theatre Company at the end of 2020.** There are press releases coming soon, but because you are a Taproot patron I want to make sure you hear this news directly from me before it becomes public.

In May/June of 2018, I hiked 800kms on the Camino de Frances in Spain. My personal purpose for this journey was to think and pray about how many more years I could commit to leading Taproot Theatre Company. Having co-founded the theatre in 1976, there was quite a flurry of thought and emotion to consider while walking for 32 days! After returning and talking to Pam, we agreed that we were ready for a change. In September 2018, I informed the Board of Directors of our decision and a careful process of reviewing my role and planning for the future began. The board and I have been talking about my eventual retirement for almost a decade, so the recent dialogue flowed easily and has been gracious and even adventurous.

Rest assured, the board is currently in the process of selecting a new Producing Artistic Director and has a succession plan that provides ample time for a smooth transition into new leadership in 2021. My successor will be named in the coming months. In the meantime, our incredibly talented staff and committed board members continue to embrace the vision of a "theatre of hope," a vision which began as a seed with six college students in 1976 and which has grown more than I ever imagined possible over the past four decades. I have every reason to expect an exciting new season of growth and impact as Taproot Theatre continues to serve audiences and students for many more decades!

Though it's sometimes a tempting daydream, the Noltes are NOT planning to move to the mountains or a

beach town in Mexico! Pam and I will remain in the area to stay close to our children, my mother and our extended families. Our plans are to stay active in our theatre careers with freelance acting, directing, and teaching roles. We will continue to support our community, our church, and of course, Taproot Theatre. This next phase of life promises to be an exciting one for both of us.

It's challenging to put into words the immense gratitude that Pam and I feel for the loyalty, trust, financial support, patience and encouragement that we have received so bounteously from friends like you. Truly, we can't thank you enough. Together we ask that you pledge your warmth, prayers and loyalty to Taproot's board members, staff and my eventual successor who will seek to serve you and this region with deep compassion and artistic vision in 2021 and the years to come!

Thank you so very much for allowing us to serve you these 44 years,

Scott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PS: We're planning a night for you to come and ask questions about TTC's next steps and our personal plans. You'll hear more soon. And if you'd like to reach out to me directly, my email address is scott@taproottheatre.org

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