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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aurora Theatre names Katie Pelkey Managing Director**

*Atlanta-area arts leader announces promotion of General Manager to leadership position*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (June 9, 2020)** – Soon after taking on the role of General Manager, Aurora Theatre names Katie Pelkey to become the organization’s first ever Managing Director. Pelkey will work alongside the Board of Directors to provide executive leadership for the organization, with oversight and implementation of operational, fundraising and administrative areas for the second largest professional theatre in Georgia.

“Katie stepped up at a very difficult financial time. The organization recovered most of our losses when we were forced to take a pause for COVID-19 – but she didn’t miss a beat. We applied and received government support through the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP). Katie provided financial reports including projected losses for foundation and national grants. Most importantly, she is leading the charge to nimbly move through a variety of budgeting scenarios that will allow us to reopen our doors as soon as possible,” said Anthony Rodriguez, Aurora Theatre Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director. “It’s the title she deserves. It’s the job she is doing.”

“We are so pleased to promote Katie to this new role. As the first Managing Director, she will bring a wealth of theatre experience to the position,” adds David Welden, President of Aurora Theatre Board of Directors. “She is the ideal individual to walk alongside Anthony and Ann-Carol, leading us as we expand into the new Lawrenceville Performing Arts Center.”

**Katie Pelkey has worked with the team at Aurora Theatre for 13 years, serving in a variety of roles including General Manager, Company Manager, Resident Stage Manager and Educational Resources Associate. During her time at Aurora Theatre, she created the highly successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice Company program that operates simultaneously with Aurora’s Acting Apprentice Company program. For over a decade, Pelkey served as Production Stage Manager for New Plays for Young Audiences, a prestigious Theatre for Young Audiences summer staged reading series based at New York University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Educational Theatre from New York University with a minor in Dramatic Literature.**

**For more information, call the Box Office at 678.226.6222 or visit** [www.auroratheatre.com](http://www.auroratheatre.com)**.**

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*Under the artistic leadership of Co-Founders and Artistic Directors Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence, now in its 24th Season, Aurora Theatre produces professional live entertainment to suit everyone’s taste. Aurora Theatre is home to over 850 events each year. Theatrical productions are comprised of the biggest Broadway plays and musicals alongside exciting contemporary theatre. Additionally, Aurora produces concerts, stand-up comedy, children’s programs, metro Atlanta’s top haunted attraction Lawrenceville Ghost Tours, as well as Atlanta’s only professional Spanish language theatre, Teatro Aurora. Aurora Theatre is a world-class theatrical facility with two performance venues. Nestled on the square in historic downtown Lawrenceville, Aurora has FREE attached covered parking and is surrounded by restaurants and shops. Aurora Theatre has garnered numerous accolades highlighted by recent achievements that include a 2016 Governor’s Award for the Arts & Humanities, winner of five 2019 Suzi Bass Awards, Creative Loafing’s “2010 Best Theatre Company,” Georgia Trend Magazine’s “2011 Best Places to Work in Georgia,” Atlanta Business Chronicle’s “2012 Best Places to Work,” Atlanta Magazine’s “Best of Atlanta 2018” for Best Inclusive Programming, Gwinnett Chamber’s 2018 Inaugural Moxie Award for Outstanding Organization, Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s 2014 President and CEO Award for Excellence in Arts, and Gwinnett Chamber’s 2015 IMPACT Regional Business Award for Hospitality.*