



Annual Report 2020-21

ASHTABULA
Arts
CENTER

2020-2021 Annual Report President's Letter

The 2020-2021 fiscal year began with the Arts Center reopening after a four-month hiatus. Like the rest of the country, we shut down the building and most operations in March 2020 with the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the Arts Center came out of this past year stronger than we went in. Through the generosity of our donors, who helped us exceed our annual fund goal by 21%, we are on solid financial footing. As the Arts Center and our theater opened up, our friends returned to volunteer, teach classes in person, and all of our creative staff were in place to pick up where we left off.

I'm very proud of executive director Meeghan Humphrey and her staff. This was a trying time of canceling performances, trying to recoup royalties, and navigating public health protocols. They responded with professionalism, flexibility, and, as always, passion for their art.

Despite limited programming this year, there were several developments that laid the foundation for years to come. In 2020 the Civic Development Corporation (CDC) announced a \$100,000 grant, supplemented by \$30,000 from the Ashtabula Arts Center Foundation, to upgrade our theater. We will see all-new seating and curtains in the GB Theatre for the first time since its construction in 1987. Patrons with mobility issues will be happy to hear we have dramatically increased the amount of accessible seating in the theater.

On a sad note, a dear friend of the Arts Center, Paul Tikkanen, passed away in 2020. As part of his estate he established and endowed a regional painting competition that will draw artists from Erie, Youngstown, Akron, Cleveland as well as Ashtabula County. We are very excited to welcome new people to the Arts Center and spread the love of the visual arts around our community. Stay tuned to Arts Center social media for more on this competition.

This was a unique year that required a lot from our Arts Center family. I want to thank all our donors, volunteers, staff, and patrons for sticking with us. Our challenge now is to get audiences back in the theater, celebrate our gallery artists, and get back to doing the things we were doing in February 2020 before our lives were all upended. If you haven't been back to the arts center since then, I'd encourage you to watch a show, take a class, or volunteer to usher. We are forever grateful to all of you and look forward to seeing you in person in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Lebzelter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Lebzelter
President, Board of Trustees

Our Mission Statement

The Arts Center promotes artistic creativity, education and presentation for a collaborative, inclusive and vibrant cultural community. The Arts Center inspires and enriches participants, audiences and visitors alike.

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Foundation and Grant Support

Our very grateful thanks to the following organizations for providing the Ashtabula Arts Center with funds essential to our ability to provide high quality arts programming to the region.

The Albert M. Ford Charitable Trust
The Androse Foundation
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The Civic Development Corporation
The Ohio Arts Council
The Panevin Foundation
The Robert S. Morrison Foundation

Sponsors

KeyBank – Straw Hat Theater Season
Nassief Auto Family – Concerts on the Lawn
Huffman-Mayer Wealth Management – G.B Season and Dance Season

Organizational Financial History

	FY 2021
Total revenue	\$607,429
Total expenses	\$552,441
Change in net assets	\$54,988
Total net assets	\$879,477

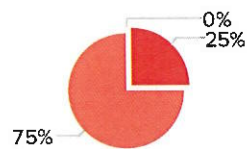
Organizations with expenses under \$50,000 do not have the option to enter net assets.

Revenue & expense summary	FY 2021
Total revenue less in-kind	\$596,035
Total expenses less in-kind	\$552,441

Unrestricted Operating Revenue by Source

- Earned
- Investment
- Contributed

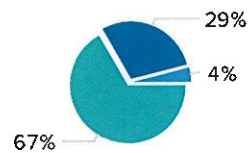
FY 2021



Operating Expenses by Functional Grouping

- Program
- Management & General
- Fundraising

FY 2021



Highlights



Adult String Orchestra

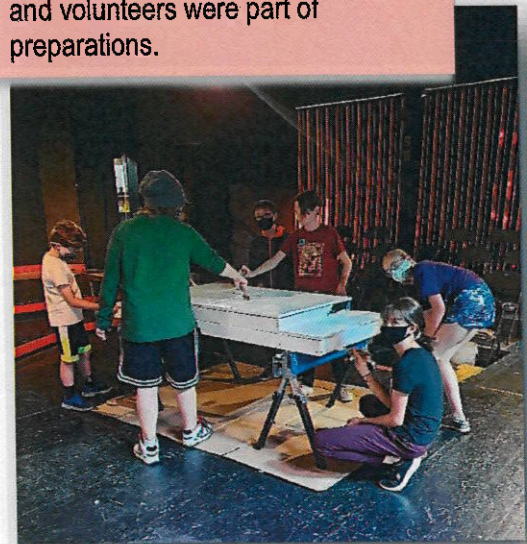
Under the direction of Dr. Carol Linsenmeier, our string orchestra continued to practice every week.



Theater In spring, we prepared to reopen Straw Hat Theatre. Students and volunteers were part of preparations.



Art classes were held in person and virtually.



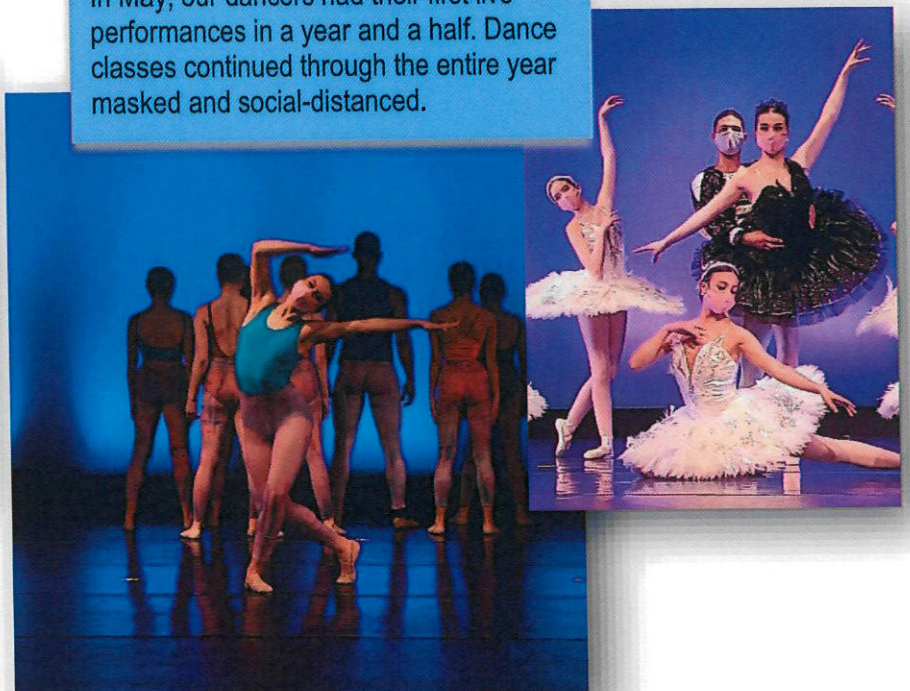
Dance

In May, our dancers had their first live performances in a year and a half. Dance classes continued through the entire year masked and social-distanced.



Exhibits

The gallery remained open and we held 11 exhibits.



By the Numbers - Even in a pandemic we were busy

- We held 9 individual performances
- 655 classes were offered
- 1970 individual music lessons were taught
- 11 exhibitions were mounted
- 19323 visits were made to our website
- Almost 1910 individuals participated directly in our activities.



Partners

Each year, we strive to build stronger connections with other organizations in the community. We strengthened relationships this year with **The Ashtabula YMCA**, **Harbor Topky Library**, **After School Discovery**, **LEADERShip Ashtabula County**, the **Ashtabula Area District Library**, and **Ashtabula Area City Schools**.

A Sampling of New and Exciting Projects

Crosswalk Murals

The Visual Arts Department partnered with the City of Ashtabula to paint three crosswalks on Main Avenue with depictions of the Ashtabula River and fish, insects, and amphibians native to the river.

Pay What You Can Ticketing

As a way to remove one barrier to attendance, we began offering Pay What You Can tickets. These tickets can be reserved in person, over the phone, or on our website. Users can name their own ticket price using this option.

Fairy Doors

The Ashtabula Arts Center launched a fairy door project in the spring of 2020 by asking artists to create fairy doors. These doors have been placed in public buildings and we have an interactive map of their locations on our website.

Live Streaming Performances and Virtual Classes

The Arts Center live-streamed both our spring dance concert which allowed people from all over the world to view the performance. Many of our teachers provided classes and private lessons on line.



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