

# NAC NEWS

November 20, 2021 Edition 3 Vol 4

## NORWALK ARTS CENTER

***When your life is over, the world will ask you only one question:  
'Did you do what you were supposed to do?' – Korczak Ziolkowski.***

This quote is attributed to a self-taught sculptor, who was born in Boston of Polish decent and grew up in the foster care system after his parents died tragically when he was one. His gift to the world is still in progress even years after his death. I was fortunate enough to view his masterpiece in the making a few weeks ago when I was visiting the incredibly massive, but yet simply respectful Crazy Horse Memorial. As I stood there admiring the beauty of his work, it occurred to me that the human mind, body, soul and hands are an incredible combination; and that I have been surrounded by people like Korczak my whole life.



Art is in the hands of the mason who creates beautiful stone buildings. Art is in the mind and hands of the carpenter and his lathe. Art is in the beautiful meal a woman prepares for her family and the kaleidoscope of flowers she tends in her garden. Art is in the mind, hands and torch of the welder that liquifies metal to create a powerful source of strength. And finally, art is in the musician that serves as the foundation of beautiful songs. This is my family. I am incredibly fortunate to not only be a part of them, but to truly admire them for their gifts and their contributions over the years to everyone around them. I believe they've all done and are still doing what they've supposed to do.

So, you see, the impact of art is everywhere you go...

if you simply recognize it and be present in it. You have people all around you – your family, co-workers, friends, kids, grandkids – that have the ability to create art in some fashion. I believe it is up to all of us to make our area a better community by focusing on the arts, embracing them and letting them flourish. We need to encourage anyone we know that has an inkling of artistic talent to get involved somehow, somewhere to let them see the incredible potential inside themselves.

Norwalk Arts Center is a grassroots organization, in existence for only two years, that does just that. Our Arts Education programming and our Children, Teen and Adult Community Theatre focuses on all components of the arts – visual, music, dance and theatre. Our fundraising efforts to restore YOUR historic Norwalk Theater will allow our community to create art from its simplest to most diverse and complex forms.

Your help is needed in order to continue what we've started. Our programming and productions are steadily increasing in numbers and interest, even through COVID. Our volunteers are wonderful and are ready for more tasks to help spread our mission. Our ultimate goal is for you and your family, though. The doors at 57 E. Main Street, your historic theater, need to be opened in order to really escalate our vision for our future programming and education of the arts.

In order to do this, we need you! Our current phase in the restoration of the theater is the historic marquee. We are finalizing our budget with the State of Ohio to attain the \$250,000 grant allocated to NAC that will enable us to restore and upgrade the roof, lighting, sheet metal, plumbing and paint of just the marquee as well as qualify the building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The architectural firm Perspectus will have the master design study finished in the next month. We can't wait to share it with you! From there, we continue to work on raising the necessary funding to start the interior work of the plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical through grants, fundraising and this . . . our annual appeal. Our goal this year is \$100,000. Your contribution is so very important to the mission of Norwalk Arts Center.

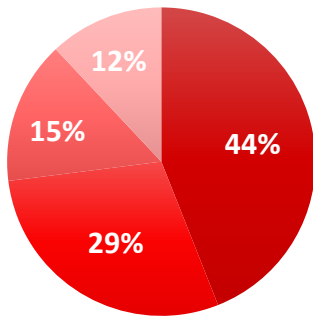
Please consider a gift to NAC by the end of 2021 to further our goal of opening the doors to your theater and bringing the arts "home"! Respectfully –Dina Lukasko, President



# NAC Financial Report: FY 2020-2021

(Oct 1, 2020- Sept 30, 2021)

## NAC Income



■ Capital Campaign - 44% ■ Fundraising Events - 29%  
 ■ Grants - 15% ■ Productions & Misc - 12%

## Income

**\$176,923.76**

**Capital Campaign Donations- \$77,692.41**

**Fundraising Events- \$50,647.76**

**Productions & Misc. -\$26,933.59**

**Grants-\$21,650.00**

## Expenses

**\$ 193,431.62**

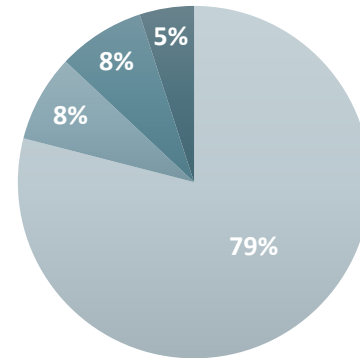
**Renovation Expenses - \$152,627.41**

**Facilities - \$15,404.47**

**Other - \$15,369.66**

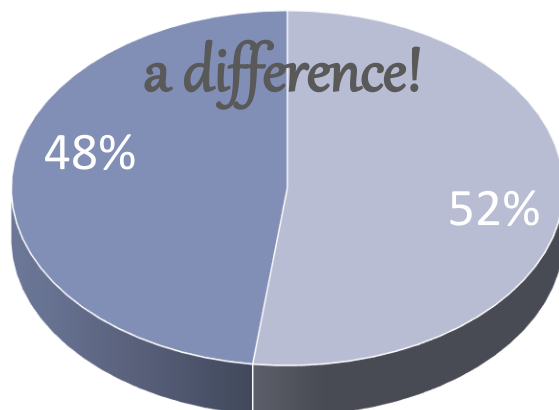
**Operational - \$10,030.08**

## NAC Expenses



■ Renovation - 79% ■ Facilities & Equipment - 8%  
 ■ Other - 8% ■ Operational - 5%

## NAC Fundraising...YOU make



■ Individual & Local Businesses + Capital Campaign - 52%  
 ■ Additional Fundraising - 48%

Thank you for supporting our past fundraising events!

\*Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

\*Winner's Choice Travel Raffle

\*Something to "Chair-ish"

\*Miller's Bagging/Ribfest

\*Country Jam

\*Roll it Forward

## Arts Education is Key to Building a Supportive Community

The Arts Education Committee believes that every individual is an artist. Very often, the fear of failure or ridicule holds back true expression, so providing safe and inclusive environments to learn and create is vital to having a community in which the arts are both celebrated and supported.

By developing programs for all ages and abilities, Norwalk Arts Center is building that supportive community. Fun, appealing activities to learn about the four facets of the arts--visual art, music, dance, and theatre--are constantly being developed for everyone in our community in hopes of instilling a lifelong love of the arts.

Collaboration with Artists' Open Studio has created opportunities for the differently-abled to learn about and share their love of the arts. Our Artist's Evolution speaker series recently featured visually-impaired artist Rick Fravor and his exceptional artwork. Other artists have shared that the arts have helped them heal through depression, abuse, or addiction.

The connections being formed from these efforts are not only broadening opportunities for individuals to learn about art but are also giving established artists an avenue through which to share their passion and showcase their art. These are the very building blocks of a thriving arts community.



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## Retreat To Reset

On a crisp fall afternoon, Oct. 22, the NAC Board of Directors met lakeside to create strategic goals and objectives for Norwalk Arts Center. The afternoon started with a group meditation to help us focus on our efforts and goals. As a team, a new organizational chart was created and new roles and responsibilities were developed. Most importantly, the board of directors developed a new mission statement:

***It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the arts in North Central Ohio by providing education, experiences and environments for artistic growth.***

**SPOTLIGHT: MaryLisa Boose, Grants Committee Chair** MaryLisa Boose started volunteering for Norwalk Arts Center to help with grants. Inspired by the vision and dedication she saw in the board members and other volunteers, she soon found herself showing up at every opportunity to help with the mission of restoring the theater and expanding the arts in the area. A Texas native, she moved to rural Norwalk in 1984 when she married her husband, Terry. As they raised four children – Will, Brynna, Weston and Joel – she ran an in-home day-care, served as township clerk, taught school and worked in journalism. She also volunteered for many organizations over the years. With fond memories of attending live events and taking her kids to the movies at Norwalk Theater, MaryLisa now looks forward to bringing her grandkids to experience the arts at the restored theater.



**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Nov 15: 2021 Annual Appeal Campaign Kickoff
- Nov 19-21: Peter Pan Jr. Performances NAC@22
- Nov 27: Light Up Norwalk @16W (Music, Make &Take Craft)
- Dec 9: BINGO @Milestone 5:30 pm
- Dec 11: Arts Explorers, NAC@22 10-2 pm
- Jan 8: A.R.T. Club, NAC @22 10-12 pm
- Jan 13: BINGO @Milestone 5:30 pm
- Jan 14: A.I.M. Club @Sheri's 2:45 pm
- Feb 10: BINGO @Milestone 5:30 pm
- Feb 11&12: Comedy Showcase @Milestone 5:30 pm
- Feb 12: A.R.T. Club, NAC@22, 10 -12 pm

*More information about these and other events can be found at [NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org)*

**Sponsors and Affiliations:**



**Community Lift**

Special thanks to the Norwalk Eagles Club for the \$5,000 donation towards the purchase of a scissor lift. Mark and Diane Schaffer were able to source NAC the gently used equipment and cover the remaining purchase balance. The lift will be used during restoration projects at the Norwalk Theater.



**Norwalk Arts Center**

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**Norwalk Arts Center**

**Board of Directors**

**President:** Dina Lukasko

**Vice President:** Jeffery Cook

**Treasurer:** Kathleen Sigsworth

**Secretary:** Vanessa Cook

**Fundraising Chair:** Paige Wesolowski

**Arts Education Chair:** Tiina Ruffing

**Business Affairs Chair:** Lisa Bleile

**Productions Chair:** Theresa Barcus

**Grants Chair:** MaryLisa Boose

**Ex-Officio Chair:** Brooke Gfell



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**Creating Art. Building Community.**