

### A letter from Our Board President

As I write this letter, I never imagined I would be the president of the grassroots, non-profit organization; the Norwalk Arts Center. The arts have always been a special part of my life. Tap dancing at the Strawberry Festival as a child, marching in the high school band as a teen, playing flute in a jazz trio as an adult, and finally stepping up on stage have shaped me into the person I am today. What an exciting privilege to be part of an organization bringing arts to everyone, no matter their age or ability!

“Let’s go to the show!” I remember as a little girl how excited I would get when my parents would take me to the theater to see live performances or even movies at the movie theater. The thrill of waiting for that moment when the curtain rose and the talented performers would be awaiting to take me on a journey to a different place in time.

Our community has desperately been lacking a solid arts presence as the theater at 57 E. Main St. has remained vacant for many years. The Norwalk and surrounding communities have a historic icon that will eventually become a beautiful, vibrant, exciting destination to celebrate and learn about the arts, all the while stimulating growth for the local businesses and economy in what we envision as the future Arts District of Norwalk.

Imagine the opportunity to have a children’s theatre performance on stage again at the theater downtown! How gratifying to watch your children or grandchildren display their talents and transform themselves into a character right in front of you! I am proud to report that Norwalk Arts Center has already made this a reality at our satellite location on East Main Street (NAC@22). I am so thankful for the individuals and businesses that have supported us thus far. You are our foundation!

The children, teens, and adult members of the community have the ability to enrich their love of music, art, theatre and dance by having professional instructors guide them in individual private lessons. The Norwalk Arts Center will eventually offer studio space to professional artists, as well, so they can better develop and promote their passion and skills.

The restoration of the iconic historic theater is ever present and moving in the right direction. The roof has been neglected over the last few decades and is the first and foremost improvement to the end goal. In order to see life inside the theater, we have to focus on the outside requirements first. Replacing the roof is boring and not glamorous, but is undeniably essential. With your help, our theater can be “dried-in” before the end of the year. Our goal is your goal!

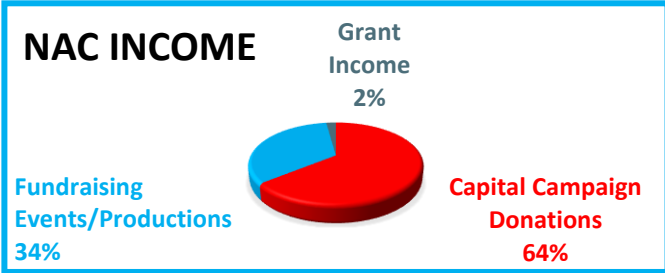
Please consider donating to Norwalk Arts Center so we can bring the arts back to our community. Supporting the arts ensures greater cultural opportunities for your family and our community for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Dina Lukasko, President NAC Board

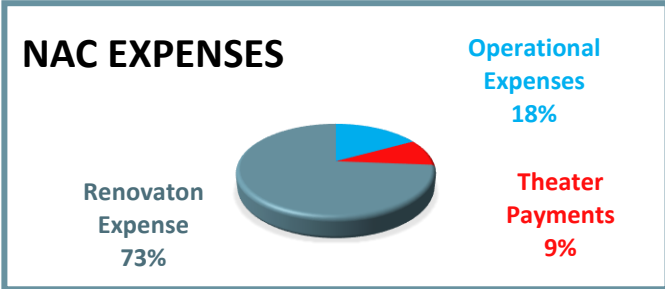


NORWALK ARTS CENTER, LLC Fiscal Report April 1, 2019 to Sept 30, 2020



**Income**

Capital Campaign Donations	\$	149,749
Fundraising Events/Productions	\$	78,511
Grant Income	\$	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>233,300</b>



**Expenses**

Operational Expenses	\$	31,611
Theater Payments	\$	15,200
Renovation Expense	\$	127,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>173,811</b>

**How the arts can impact a small rural community.**

Every day, more than 100,000 nonprofit arts and culture organizations act as economic drivers - creating an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of our tourism industry. The nonprofit arts and culture industry, and their audiences, play a key role in strengthening our nation's economy.

A well-placed arts district, or the use of an arts venue as an anchor for a neighborhood, can be a magnet for economic growth as well as attracting young families. "You need arts in rural America so that the next generation wants to come there and live," said Charles Fluharty, president and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute, a public policy institute located at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses. Attendees at nonprofit arts events spend \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and babysitters—valuable commerce for local businesses. 34% of attendees live outside the county in which the arts event takes place; they average \$47.57 in event-related spending. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

Business leaders and city administrators say it's almost impossible to pin a dollar figure on the amount of revenue arts and entertainment can bring to a rural community. In all, a well-placed arts district, or the use of an arts venue as an anchor for a neighborhood, can be a magnet for economic growth. (<http://www.scartshub.com/can-the-arts-help-save-rural-america/>, Oct 27, 2016)



**Your donations will help us make sure we are "covered" for years to come!**

**Paid to date \$127k**

**In Escrow \$47k**

**Need to raise \$98k**

**Total projected cost of roof replacement.**  
**\$272,000.000**  
**Help us reach our goal!!**

**Donate Today**

**Donate Today**

**Donate Today**

**Donate Today**

*The Norwalk theater has eight roof sections. To date we have completed **SIX** of those sections. We need your help to finish the **TWO** largest remaining sections! **Please donate today.***

## Volunteers drive our mission.

Our volunteers are truly the backbone of our organization. Starting at the top the commitment of our volunteer co-founders and board members continues to drive our mission. "It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the arts in the communities of Norwalk and greater Huron County".

Additionally, our community volunteers have collected to assist in bringing the Norwalk Theater back to life. It is the plan of NAC to use the former Norwalk Theater as its future home. "Our volunteers are so giving of their time and talents and we could not have made the progress we have so far without their unselfish giving," stated Dina Lukasko, board president.

To date with the assistance of the volunteers we have been able to remove all the old seating, damaged carpet, fill four forty-yard dumpsters, remove old curtains, damaged ceilings and archaic equipment. "We are truly blessed to have the support of some many community volunteers." said co-founder and restoration co-chair Vanessa Cook.

We have started a facebook group page for our volunteers, we are always looking for help and hope to utilize the page to announce opportunities. We encourage volunteers to follow the page and hope that student organizations and clubs will also consider helping. Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/385893496113355/>



## Theater Tour Road Trip

The old adage... "why reinvent the wheel?" also applies to certain areas of theatre and its management and operations. A few weeks ago, five members of the NAC Board of Directors took off on a fun and educational road trip to view the Ritz Theater in Tiffin, the Collingwood Arts Center in Toledo and finally the beautifully renovated Lerner Theater in Elkhart, Indiana. Our mission was to research how the management operates their theaters and also get ideas from their theaters that we can implement in our own theater at the Norwalk Arts Center (at 57 E. Main Street). We learned about the importance of "knowing our zip code", asking for assistance from the city to federal government levels and all in between, the complexity of a fully renovated theater, and to make money with any space you have available! So much information, so little time! All three theaters were completely different by design, but all had the same passion of building community by creating art. Everyone was so very generous with their time, information and hospitality. We are energized to keep up the spirit and push forward to one day opening the doors of our very own beautifully renovated Norwalk Arts Center!



**SAVE THE DATES:**

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**-Adult painted light bulbs project 6-8 pm, NAC@22 (22 E Main St)

**Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**-Shop Small & Light Up Norwalk

**Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**-Giving Tuesday

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**-Holiday Artisan and Vendor Event, 9am -3pm NAC@22 (22 E Main St)

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**- Gift wrappers at Sandusky Mall 10 am -10 pm

**Saturdays, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**- Arts Explorers Winter Sessions

**Sponsors and Affiliations:**



**And the Winner's Choice Raffle Ticket Winner is ...**

Congratulations to **Tom Montgomery** of Norwalk for being our Grand prize winner!! Tom has decided to take his trip to Key West, Florida! Tom said "I couldn't believe it! I've never won anything in my life! At first I thought it was some telemarketer!



When she said, " You are our Grand Prize Winner!" I replied in a skeptical tone, "Yeah...what did I win?" Then it became clear it was the ticket I purchased from you. "I was floored!"

NAC was fortunate enough to sell over 220 tickets and net \$20,000 thanks to all of the wonderful, generous people who purchased tickets for the raffle. All of the proceeds from the raffle are going directly towards the desperately needed roof renovation at our future home at 57 E Main St.

*Special Thanks to the Huron County CARES Small Business Grant program for their generous award of \$5,000 to purchase much need PPE and equipment. Allowing us to begin serving the youth of our community once again, with our Arts Explorers October Session.*

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**Norwalk Arts Center**

**Executive Board of Directors**

President: *Dina Lukasko*  
 Vice President: *Pete Miragliotta, Sr*  
 Treasurer: *Kathleen Sigsworth*  
 Secretary: *Jeffery Cook*

Marketing Chair: *Brooke Gfell*  
 Fundraising Chair: *Dina Lukasko*  
 Arts/Education Chair: *Tiina Ruffing*  
 Business Affairs Chair: *Lisa Bleile*

**NAC Co-founders:**

Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

**NAC Mission:** *It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the arts in the communities of Norwalk and greater Huron County.*



**Creating Art. Building Community.**