

# NAC NEWS

MAY 27, 2020 EDITION 2, VOL. 2

## NORWALK ARTS CENTER

### “THE SHOW MUST GO ON”

... or we at least need to continue moving forward.

The simple adage which originated in the circus tents of the 1800's would apply when an actor or animal was injured. It was the duty of the ringmaster to keep things going amid crisis. While we are not faced with an injured elephant or faint actor, Norwalk Arts Center is in a bit of a crisis with the current worldwide corona virus pandemic, as are so many arts entities.

Stay-at-home orders and a ban on gatherings over ten people have affected how Norwalk Arts Center is able to function and how we can raise money for our renovation of the Norwalk Theater. As happens with necessity, we have had to be inventive in the past few months to ensure our initiative continues.

With the postponement of our Ladies' Teacup Auction, Peter Pan Jr performance, Art Explorers Program and dinner theater fundraiser, we have become creative in ways to raise a little money to keep moving forward.

“We really wanted to do something for the community during the pandemic,” said Board President Dina Lukasko. “So many of our board members and friends of NAC are crafty and able to sew, and we saw a need we could fulfill.” Lukasko and several volunteers were able to produce and distribute masks to our community.

Seeing the community's need for personal protective equipment, NAC began firing up the sewing machines and began

sewing. As a team, Norwalk Arts Center has been able to produce nearly 2000 fabric masks, distributing to individuals, front line workers and local businesses at no cost. Donations were accepted but not expected. Once again, the community showed their support for our efforts and over \$4,500 was donated to NAC through the mask distribution.



**SPOTLIGHT:** Brooke Gfell is the chair of the Norwalk Arts Center marketing committee since 2019. A lifelong Norwalk native, she graduated from St. Paul High School and Lorain County Community College's dental hygiene program. She has been a dental hygienist at Sommers Family Dentistry for over 14 years. Brooke is actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America and with the St. Paul school and church community. She currently lives in Norwalk with her husband Jamie and her two sons, Everett and Weston. “I am passionate about NAC and excited to build our community in a cultural way. We will have a beautiful theater downtown to not only serve our residents but also draw people to our beautiful community.”

## Pushing forward in the face of adversity.

Amidst the quarantine, progress continued on the renovations of the Norwalk Theater. Damschroder Roofing won the bid for the work of replacing the much-needed new roof. The crew began work on the building in late February.

"It is the first step in making sure that the theater is safe. Sections of the ceiling have been collapsing due to the saturation of rain water through the roof," said Vanessa Cook, Restoration Co-chair. The community came together again to show its support for the project; several volunteers were crucial to preparing the roof for replacement.



"We had to have the old chiller unit removed from the roof to make way for the roof replacement," said Kathleen Sigsworth, Restoration Co- Chair, "Riley Contracting Inc. and about

five volunteers donated their expertise and equipment to get that large piece of equipment safely removed."

The crew from Damschroder



Roofing continued to replace the roof until weak spots in the decking sidelined the project, which was around the same time the stay-at-home order became in effect for the State. However, progress continued inside the building. The ceiling demolition has been completed by Erie Environmental. Removal of the remaining seats was completed by board members and their families. Removing the ceiling has allowed for a more complete assessment of the roof, and the reroofing project is scheduled to continue after deck replacement.



### TOP TEN REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

Arts improve individual well-being.

Arts unify communities.

Arts improve academic performance.

Arts strengthen the economy.

Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses.

Arts spark creativity and innovation.

Arts drive the creative industries.

Arts have social impact.

Arts improve healthcare.

Arts support the health and well-being of our military.

[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG/NODE/100499](https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100499)



## Something to Chair-ish

The first-floor seats that have been removed are the original seats that have adorned this historic theater for almost eighty years. Partnering with several local businesses, NAC is offering the seats to the public as a means to raise funds for continued renovations of the theater. The "Something to Chair-ish"

Campaign began in May and gives donors the opportunity to purchase from one to ten seats. Norwalk Fabric Outlet is allowing donors to pick a fabric of their liking and Lesch Upholstery is recovering the seats. Custom Metal Works has prepped seat frames by sandblasting them, and the seat backs and legs will be repainted in one of three color choses.

Only 200 seats will be available for purchase during the fundraiser, which will run through the summer. "We are excited to share the history of the theater with the community. It's their history, too" said Cook. "We were able to sell some seats to other non-profits in January, but we wanted to make sure we had some to offer to donors."



The "Something to Chair-ish" Campaign comes at a critical time. "With all in-person avenues of fundraising suspended, the chair sale will help immensely," said Theresa Barcus, Co-founder of NAC. "We had a set refinished to see how they turned out, and they are on display in the window at NAC@22 (22 E Main St.) These theater seats will make a great addition to your office lobby, home theater, waiting room, or wherever you need a conversation piece. The professional level of craftsmanship has transformed the battered seats into something to truly "chair-ish."

Own a piece of Norwalk history with completely refinished original Norwalk Theater seats. Buy one or ten! A limited quantity is available. All money raised goes directly to restoration of the historic Norwalk Theater. Purchase yours today visit our website:

**[NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org)**



### We'd love to hear from you!

#### NAC Contact Information:

##### Email:

[NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com)

##### Website:

[NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org)

##### Call:

567-220-0011

##### Mail:

Norwalk Arts Center  
PO Box 656  
Norwalk, Oh 44857

Follow us on



### Arts Explorers returns for families!

Our first summer session (Arts, Naturally!) will run June 20 through July 11. Families can register at [norwalkartscenter.org](http://norwalkartscenter.org) beginning June 10. Instructional challenge packets may be picked up at 22 East Main Street in Norwalk by one person from each registered family either June 20 or June 27 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The second session (theme TBD) will run July 18 thru August 7, 2020. Registration begins July 8 on the NAC website. Family packet pickup will take place July 18 or July 25 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at NAC@22.

There is **no cost** for this program, but donations are always greatly appreciated.



### SAVE THE DATE\*

**July 27-28-** Auditions for Mystery Dinner Theatre

**August 2-** Ladies' Teacup Auction

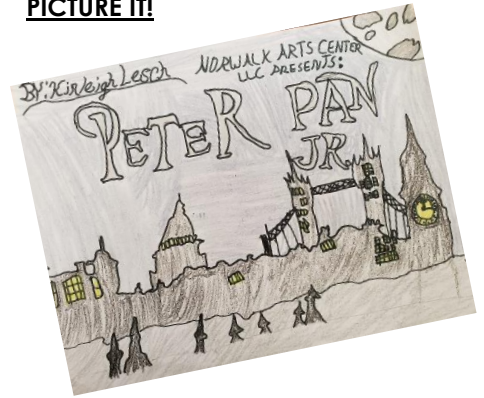
**August 30-** Peter Pan Jr. Rehearsals begin

**Sept 14-** Star Bus tour

**October 2-3-** Mystery Dinner Theatre

**November 6,7,8-** Peter Pan Jr Performance

### PICTURE IT!



Norwalk Arts Center, LLC

PO Box 656

Norwalk, OH 44857

### 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

**Advisory Board:** *Al Lesch, Mollie Wetherill, Laura Hengle,*

*Julie and Pete Miragliotta Jr, John Wasiniak, Jennifer Evans,*

*Ron Dee, Daniel Ruffing, Justin Brown, Jeanette Roth*

#### 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.**