

## NORWALK ARTS CENTER

### State Capital Budget Appropriation

**By Kathleen Sigsworth, NAC Treasurer**

Many of you have heard that the Norwalk Arts Center (NAC) was awarded \$250,000 by way of the State of Ohio Capital Budget Bill. We are so grateful for the assistance and support of Representative Dick Stein and Senator Nathan Manning in obtaining this funding. What a learning experience it has been and continues to be! We are still working on the details to actually receive the funding.

Just before Christmas, Rep. Stein called with the good news about being awarded the \$250,000. What a great Christmas gift! We had hoped to use the funding on the roof, but when COVID hit, we didn't think there would be any funding available, so we went forward on our own and completed the roof through the generosity of our wonderful donors. Our new roof is completely paid off!!

So how do we get the actual \$250,000 from the state? The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) is the governing entity that oversees the capital budget allocations. While reading the fine print and having discussions with the OFCC, we learned that "the last dollar of funding spent by the State of Ohio must culminate with a cultural event that the public can enjoy."

While the roof was completely necessary to fix, the facility is not ready to be "open to the public" yet. Therefore, the work completed on the roof did not qualify for the state appropriation funds. We also learned that "for every dollar the state awards in funding, the receiving entity must contribute \$.50." Thanks to our generous donors, the 2<sup>nd</sup> caveat is not an issue and has been satisfied.

We are now in the process of coming up with a plan for the OFCC that qualifies for the appropriated funding. Our focus is now revitalizing the marquee to its original grandeur while also converting it to energy-efficient LED. We are working on events under the marquee that qualify as "cultural opportunities for the public." Once this plan or scope of project is submitted to the OFCC, it has to be approved by the commission, and then a contract will be signed. This whole process can take up to 4 months. Then invoices submitted will be reimbursed at 50%.

The estimates from contractors for the marquee indicate that this appropriation will likely be exhausted and more funding will be needed. We will again appeal to our community to help cover the shortfall. Potential donors are welcome to contact one of the board members to contribute. Donations can be made through the NAC website as well.

As you can see, this is a lengthy process to navigate. God willing, we plan to submit for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding as we approach another even numbered year to start this process all over again. Hopefully, each round will go smoother than the last. Just remember... anything worth having begins with hard work. We as an organization are not afraid of the challenge!

Regards,



Rep Dick Stein, Sen Nathan Manning present a check to NAC Co Founder Theresa Barcus, President Dina Lukasko and Treasurer Kathleen Sigsworth

## Spring Artisan Event Wrap Up

The NAC Spring Artisan Event was held on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Milestone Event Center. Hosting over a dozen local artisans to showcase their talents, each artisan had an opportunity to display their wares. Nearly 70 guests received a swag bag, snacks and complimentary door prize tickets for their paid admission. All money collected at the door and for raffle prizes benefited NAC. It was a perfect day weather-wise, and each artisan donated a door prize to raffle. A vintage Serro Scotty camper loaned by Dave Stuthard and Shirley Skinn was parked under the marquee for a perfect spring photo op! Miller's Landscaping donated a beautiful Miss Kim Lilac tree (winner Morgan Tucker) that was raffled. The final theater chair available to the public was also raffled, with handmade pillows. Fabric was donated by Paula Hackathorn and reupholstered by Lesch Upholstery (winner Lauren Lukasko). NAC merchandise was on display for sale as well. NAC@22 hosted the art education group with children seed paper making and decorating and planting mini flower pots. Local artist Cassie Shella hosted an adult make and take multimedia decoupage. All in all, it was a nice event that NAC hopes to make an annual event. Spring Artisan Event Chair Jody Kashian, said "It was group effort to put on this event, and so many helped to make it work. What a great team we have here at NAC!"



## TICKETS on Sale NOW

### NorwalkArtsCenter.org

Winner chooses between FOUR fabulous destinations for two: Explore Key West, Tennessee Whiskey Adventure, Broadway in Chicago, NASCAR Driver for a Day!

## Arts Education Committee Expands Programming

The NAC Arts Education Committee was formed with the goal of providing accessibility to all facets of the arts---visual art, music, dance, and theatre--to all ages and abilities. Initial programming has been geared to youth in our community. The "Arts Explorers" program allows youth to sample each of the four arts facets by providing basic instruction for projects--or missions--that play into a theme. While participation in the program has been excellent, it has become clear that it is attracting mainly 1st through 4th graders.

In an effort to broaden the reach and appeal of our programming, our committee brainstormed possible names and used the democratic process to finalize the selection of our new program names.

The **AIM (Artists in the Making)** Program will be offered to 5th through 8th graders in our community. It will feature an occasional sampler event similar to Arts Explorers, but it will also offer



workshops and camps focusing on a single arts facet. For example, a photography camp is being developed for summer of 2021.

The **A.R.T. (Arts Resources for Teens) Club** will offer more intensive workshops and seminars for high school students as well as camps and special events that would appeal to older teens. If grants are approved, a theatre camp will be developed that will culminate in an actual theatre production.

In addition to the programs for our youth, NAC Arts Education also offers "Discover Your NAC," developed for adults to explore the arts. Instruction in jewelry making, photography, creative writing and other areas are being considered. NAC is also creating an adult players group that will perform a "Funeral for a Gangster," a murder mystery dinner theater this Fall. Auditions will be held on May 27th at 22 E Main St.

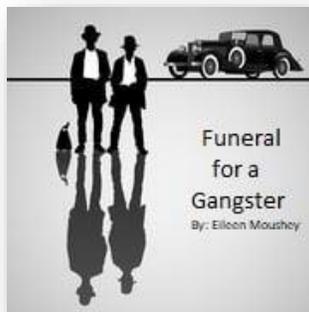
In all programming, NAC welcomes the differently-abled members of the community. Inclusion and diversity are our benchmarks as we strive to make the arts accessible to all. Anyone with a background in education and/or any of the four arts facets who would like to be part of the committee is encouraged to contact us at [norwalkartscenter.org](http://norwalkartscenter.org).

## AUDITION NOTICES



After several delayed attempts to restage "Peter Pan, Jr." due to covid restrictions, NAC is pleased to announce we will begin rehearsing for the musical beginning August 30. Don't miss your child's opportunity to be a part of something magical! Open to children grades 2 through 8, the 12-week program includes classes twice a week, music cd, script, costumes, drawstring show bag, two comp tickets and participation in at least 2 performances. The cost to participate is \$150 per child with additional siblings at \$75 each.

Families may register online at [NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events). New students are encouraged to participate. No previous theater experience is necessary. Scholarships are available, Registration is open until August 1, 2021 online and since there are limited spots, register today! [NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events)



Open to community members 18 years and older, this mad cap audience participation murder mystery show will be presented on Aug 6 and 7, 2021, as a FUNdraiser for NAC. Five roles available, plus ensemble mobsters.

The show is set in 1928 where family and friends have gathered to pay their respects to Vito "The Gut" Marzetti after he was gunned down after devouring his third helping of moo goo gai pan. Fun and mystery will unfold while guests enjoy a family style Italian dinner. Actors should be comfortable interacting with the audience. These are NON-equity, NON-paid roles.

Auditions will be held from 6- 8 p.m. on May 27 at 22 E. Main St. Rehearsals are slated for Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning June 1 from 6- 8 p.m. There is no cost to participate in the show. Audition packs available by emailing request to [NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com).



Want to know what's going on at NAC? Follow us on Facebook for weekly posts, event announcements and volunteer opportunities.

### Seeking Volunteers!

Norwalk Arts Center is seeking volunteers for several upcoming projects.

#### Including:

- Monthly Bingo
- Murder Mystery Planning
- RibFest Servers
- Millers Grocery Bagging
- July 4th Parade Walkers/Ticket Sellers
- Rummage Sale workers
- Haunted Theater- Actors and Staff

Send us your information!

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



#### NAC SPOTLIGHT:

Lisa Bleile is the Business Affairs Chair for the Norwalk Arts Center. She is a graduate of Monroeville High School and Terra Community College with a degree in Business Administration. She and husband Greg have three daughters Courtney, Rachel, and Brooke. Lisa has been an active volunteer in the St Paul and Norwalk communities. Lisa has also served as volleyball coach for a number of organizations in the area. In 2015, Greg and Lisa opened Norwalk Ace Hardware and recently purchased Huron Ace Hardware. "While, I have not been a part of the arts in the past, I see the importance of having art programming available to the youth and families in our community. Norwalk Arts Center allows another avenue for area youth to express themselves in a fun, safe, and positive environment."

**UPCOMING NAC EVENTS**

- May 20** – 2021 Grad Night Under the Marquee
- May 27** – “Funeral for a Gangster” Auditions
- May 29** – Strawberry Saturday Marquee Events
- May 29** – Rib Fest at Miller’s Grocery Store
- June 3** – Norwalk Theater 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!
- July 5** – Lion’s Club 4th of July parade
- July 19-23**- Photography Camp (8-13yo)
- July 19**- Photography Camp (5 weeks/14-18 yo)
- August 6 & 7** – “Funeral for a Gangster” Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre
- August 20 & 21** – Roll it Forward Rummage Sale. NAC benefits from sales
- August 30**- “Peter Pan Jr. “Classes begin
- September 4** – Miller’s Grocery Bagging

**Lions Club is hosting its 50<sup>th</sup> July Fourth Parade.**

The Norwalk Lions Club will be hosting its July Fourth parade this year. This year’s parade will be held on **Monday, July 5** beginning at 10 a.m. and will honor front line workers. Proceeds of the raffle will benefit Norwalk Arts Center. Pre-sale tickets will be available through Norwalk Arts Center, Flickinger Insurance and the Humane Society.

NAC volunteers will be along the parade route selling tickets for the Lions Club raffle.

More information about the parade and float participation applications can be found at [lionsclubnorwalk.org](http://lionsclubnorwalk.org).



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

**NAC Contact Information:**

**Email:**  
NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com

**Website:**  
NorwalkArtsCenter.org

**Call:**  
567-743-9343 **NEW NUMBER!**

**Mail:**  
Norwalk Arts Center  
PO Box 656  
Norwalk, OH 44857




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Return Service Requested

**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 Co-Chairs: *Dina Lukasko & Paige Wesolowski*
- Arts/Education Chair: *Tiina Ruffing*
- Business Affairs Chair: *Lisa Bleile*
- Restoration Co-Chairs: *Vanessa Cook & Kathleen Sigsworth*
- Grants Chair: *Theresa Barcus*

**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.**