

2024... A Year of Growth, Allocation, and Celebration!

To see someone blossom into a beautiful artist right in front of your eyes is truly a magical moment. You witness a transformation to a completely different person as they become one with their character, dance, music, or brush. What a fragile and extremely important gift to recognize and encourage. I have seen it first hand, and it brings tears to my eyes.

As Norwalk Arts Center enters 2025, our programming, consisting of Arts Education and Productions, has grown tremendously! In 2024, our Arts Education components offered art workshops to over 325 participants from all age ranges and locale. Every year our programming is increasing and making a valuable impact on the importance of the arts and especially our participants! Our live productions, consisting of our younger kids in Jr. shows, Teen Theatre, and Adult Theatre (affectionately referred to as "NACTors"), saw 121 cast and crew members participate. Their ages ranged from first grade through 100 and performed for sold out shows in our tiny little makeshift black box theater at 22 E. Main Street! That included an additional 38 NEW members to our cast and crew! That is incredible, considering we are not even IN the Norwalk Theatre yet. I envision these numbers escalating as the theater becomes the home for Norwalk Arts Center's productions. The quality is second to none, and you will enjoy it in the comfort of a beautifully rehabilitated historic theater!



In June of 2024, the Norwalk Arts Center received an extremely large boost from the State of Ohio's One-Time Strategic Investment Fund and the State Appropriation Bill for a total of \$3,000,000! We were flabbergasted by the news! What a significant message to the residents of Huron County from the State of Ohio that the ARTS ARE VITAL, as is HISTORIC PRESERVATION! We will all benefit greatly from these monies being used to rehabilitate the theater. Think of the economic impact this will have once the doors are open! 2025 will be a year of courage, grit, determination, and continued hard work by everyone involved in the rehabilitation project. Please support our efforts any way you possibly can.

Our last big moment of 2024 was the night of Oct. 1 when the lights of the beautiful marquee were lit once again! What a moment in time. Hundreds of people, on a rainy night, came out to celebrate this huge milestone, with music, dancing, food, and recognition. So many thanks to all involved, but our sincere thanks go out to Steve & Matt Wheeler and Dick Brady. Without their perseverance, professionalism and talent, she wouldn't be shining like she does. She is an anchor to Norwalk's downtown. A beacon of hope. A place to welcome memories and create more memories.

Your beautiful Norwalk Theatre is coming back, and we are so very proud and humbled to be taking this project on for the importance of the arts and our community! We owe it to our kids, grandkids, and ourselves to preserve this piece of history for years to come and allow the arts to flourish. With your continued support, the Norwalk Arts Center will continue "Creating art. Building community."

Respectfully,

Dina Lukasko
Executive Director



2024.... A Year of Volunteers

Lisa Bliele, NAC Volunteer Coordinator

What is volunteerism? An article I read said most definitions of volunteering include four components. The first is that you are doing it of your “free will”. I know some people may disagree with this statement, but it means that the organization is not forcing you to volunteer. This does not include requirements by parents, schools, or the courts. Secondly, there is not a financial reward for your time or efforts. Next, you are helping strangers, or someone (something) is benefiting from your volunteering. Lastly, you volunteer for some kind of organization like a non-profit, civic, or religious organization.

I think there is a fifth component as well, and that’s desire. Desire is a strong feeling that impels one to do something either good or bad. Whether it is a desire to complete requirements set forth by others, a desire to do something to help others, or a desire to be involved in something that you are passionate about, without desire, there is not anything driving you to act.

As I searched to find something meaningful for this article, I came across an interesting statistic published on AmeriCorps.gov listing “Volunteering in America Rankings”. State Ranking for volunteering has Ohio as 23rd amongst other states at a rate of 33.2%. Utah is ranked #1 at a 51% volunteer rate. While I was hoping Ohio to be amongst the top of the list, that was not what I found to be interesting. State Ranking by parent volunteer rate again has Utah at #1 at 63.5% rate. But this is interesting, Ohio moves up 16 spots to being ranked #7 at 49.3%.

Why the boost in volunteering for parents? I think there are two reasons for this increase in ranking. One of the reasons is opportunity. Parents are **provided** numerous opportunities to volunteer through school, church, and sports. The second is the fifth component I mentioned earlier, desire. As parents we all have a desire for our children to have the support they need to thrive and be successful. Our desire as parents does not change as the child gets older but the opportunity does. As the child grows and

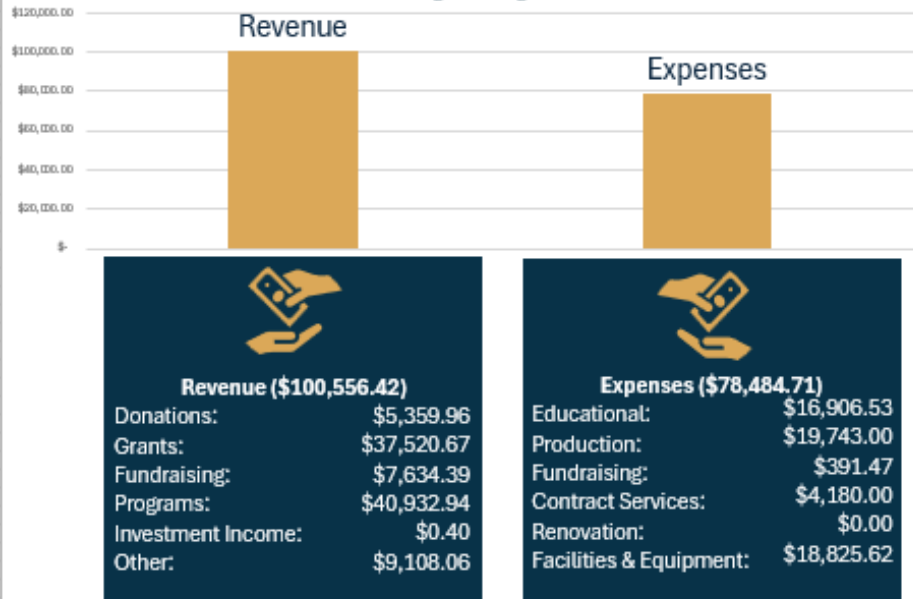
becomes more independent, the opportunities presented to volunteer decrease. Now it is up to you to **seek** volunteer opportunities!

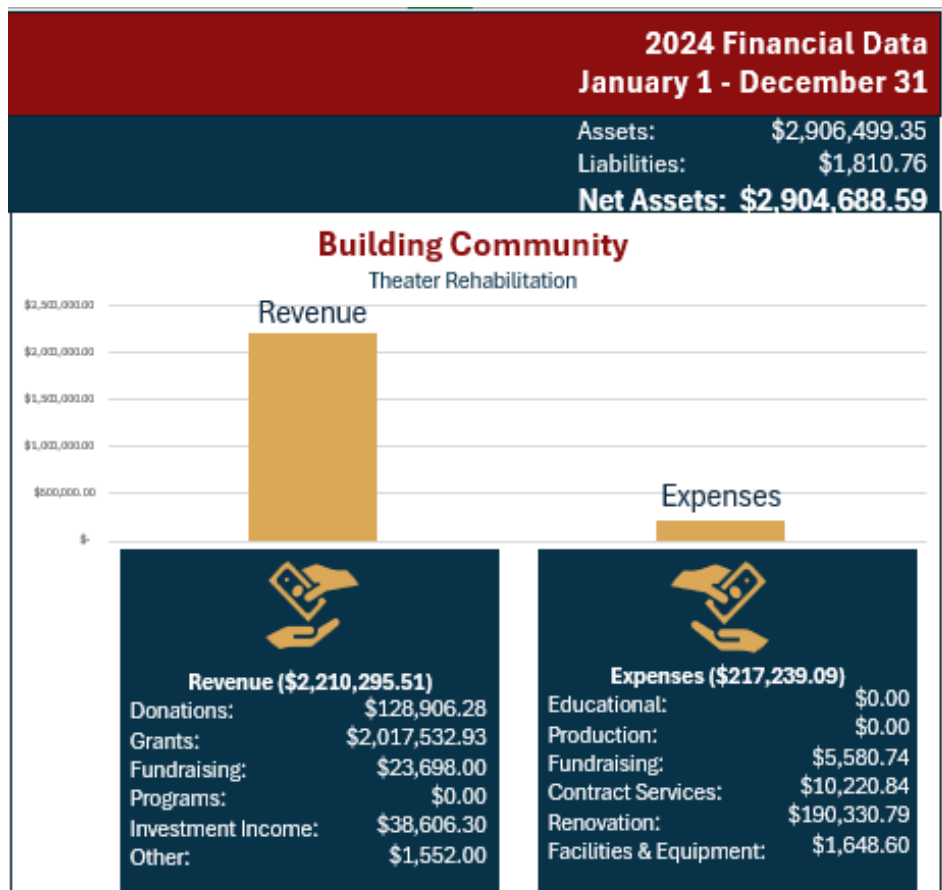
If you have the desire to volunteer, I challenge you to find volunteer opportunities. Start by getting involved in organizations that you are passionate about and the volunteer opportunities will come. If the Arts or community involvement happens to be one of your passions, then Norwalk Arts Center would love to have you as a volunteer. Please, complete the volunteer information on the NAC website at norwalkartscenter.org.

Norwalk Arts Center LLC

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.

Creating Art Programming





GET NOTICED! AT NAC

SEE YOUR AD IN OUR 2025 PLAYBILLS

Norwalk Arts Center is accepting ads from area individuals and business to be part of our 2025 Season.

| Full Page | 1/2 Page | 1/4 Page |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| (8" H x 5" W) | (4" H x 5" W) | (4" H x 2.5" W) |
| \$180 | \$85 | \$55 |

Contact us at info@norwalkartscenter.org

NORWALK ARTS CENTER
Creating art. Building community.

BACK TO THE 80'S

NAC Teen Theatre Presents

JUNE 6-8, 2025

GUYS & DOLLS

NAC Adult Theatre (NACATS) Presents

AUGUST 1-3, 2025

OUR 2025 SEASON!

NAC Junior Theatre Presents

Disney • PIXAR FINDING NEMO JR.

Classes begin August 25th, 2025
Performances will be held November 14-16, 2025

“Outta the Park Arts” event promises fun for the whole family

Dealing with spring fever? The Arts Education Committee has planned a free event that will get you and your family out of the house and inspired to follow your passions.

“Outta the Park Arts” takes place **Sunday, March 2, from 1 to 4 pm**, and is a progressive event that features individuals who have combined their love of sports with their creativity. These individuals will be presenting their art in an open-house fashion, encouraging interaction with dynamic displays. Participants will begin their afternoon at any one of four locations in uptown Norwalk to get their “passport,” which will be stamped as they visit each artist. Those locations include:

Norwalk Arts Center: 22 East Main Street

Jonathon Hrusovsky, custom athletic shoe designer

Artist’s Open Studio: 32 East Main Street

Kory Callahan, sports photographer

Huron County Growth Partnership: 12 Benedict Avenue

Vince McKee, sports writer and media producer

Collector’s Hangout: 7 West Main Street

Ben Kline and Will Currence, Lefty Grove experts and sports card enthusiasts

When a participant’s passport is completed, it then qualifies for a raffle for a pair of custom-designed shoes from Hrusovsky Custom Kicks at the end of the event. There will also be a coloring contest, and hot dogs and popcorn will be available for donation.

NORWALK ARTS CENTER

Outta the Park Arts!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

CELEBRATE LEFTY GROVE HISTORY AND COLLECTIBLES!

MEET ARTISTS WHO MAKE SPORTS THEIR CAREER!

1:00-4:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

AT FOUR LOCATIONS IN UPTOWN NORWALK

NORWALKARTSCENTER.ORG

Save the Dates:

AIM: Art pop-ups @ Sheri's Coffee House (5th-8th grade): Feb. 14, March 14, Apr 11 and May 9 after school at Sheri's Coffee House

Arts Explorers: March 8, grades 1 through 4, registration required

"Outta the Park Arts" Event: March 2 from 1-4 pm uptown Norwalk

Theatre Discovery Series: Feb 7 *Harriet Tubman American Moses*, open to grades 5 and 6; May 9 *Cinderella Confidential* open to grades 1 and 2, registration required.

Visit our webpage for more information about all of our programs and to register! NorwalkArtsCenter.org

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 environment for artistic growth.

Creating Art. Building Community.

Thank you to our generous continuous benefactors:



HURON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Norwalk Arts Center
PO Box 656

Norwalk, OH 44857

info@NorwalkArtsCenter.org



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