

Historic Theaters – Why Should You Care?

Dina Lukasko, President & Fundraising Chairperson

Kathleen Sigsworth, Treasurer & Restoration Co-Chair

Theaters evoke wonderful memories of experiencing art, enjoying architecture, and spending time with loved ones. Plus, historic theaters are proven community revitalizers and economic drivers. The historic Schine Theater in Norwalk is one of them. Norwalk Arts Center is making a remarkable restoration and reuse of this beautiful theater, demonstrating how grit and vision can give her a well-deserved second act.

Throughout the past 80 years, generations have had the luxury of enjoying numerous films, live performances, and concerts inside the Streamline Moderne Art Deco building, designed by world renowned architects John and Drew Eberson. Why would you not want to restore and preserve this piece of history and afford the same luxury to future generations if the opportunity presents itself? We have embarked on a journey with a clear vision to make this historic theater the catalyst to the arts, culture, and economic development for the area.

According to the Americans for the Arts

- ❖ 32% of attendees travel from outside the county to attend an arts event, bringing more potential customers to local businesses.
- ❖ Attendance at arts events generates income for local businesses – restaurants, parking, hotels, retail stores. An average attendee spends \$24.60 per event, not including the cost of admission.

Can you just imagine? This is an opportunity that beckons your interest and support. To put our vision into perspective, the following bullet points are what Norwalk Arts Center has done since 2019. We are an all-volunteer organization, from the board members to our event volunteers and everything in between. Think of what we could do with your support!

- ★ 6/2018- Norwalk Theater purchased by our co-founders, Theresa Barcus and Vanessa Cook. Norwalk Arts Center, LLC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed, with board of directors.
- ★ 9/2018- Labor Day weekend, major clean-up and disposal of old, damaged set pieces and removal of rain-saturated carpets.
- ★ 11/2019- Damschroder Roofing hired to replace roofing membrane, work started 2/2020.
- ★ 12/2019 – Erie Environmental determined the only asbestos in the building was the insulation covering the pipes and remove safely removed all insulation.
- ★ 3/2020- Removed chiller unit from theater roof with the help of select volunteers and Riley's crane.
- ★ 3/2020- Damschroder Roofing had to pull off the job due to the instability of the roof deck.
- ★ 4/2020– Erie Environmental was hired to bring down the ceiling over the main house of the theater to determine the extent of the damage to the roof deck. The ceiling in that area had extensive rain damage. Wire gridding holding ceiling in place was also brought down.
- ★ 10/2020- Several volunteers helped remove much of the original seating in the main house and balcony in preparation of the ceiling demolition and new decking on the roof.
- ★ 9/2020- Original RCA speakers (3 sets) were removed and sold for \$7000
- ★ 9/2020- Tusing Builders was hired to replace the majority of the original roof deck over the main auditorium space. Original ductwork was also removed.



- ★ 12/2020– Damschroder and Tusing worked in conjunction to tear off the old deck, replace with galvanized steel and complete the installation of insulation and roofing membrane.
- ★ 2/202 – Deck and roof over main house is completed! Other than the marquee, the theater is completely dried in.
- ★ 3/2021– Total Environmental Services encapsulated the lead paint on the marquee.
- ★ 4/2021– Began work on the marquee.
- ★ 8/2021– Hired Perspectus Architectural firm to develop a Master Plan Design
- ★ 10/202 – Received renderings of proposed designs from Perspectus with an estimated restoration cost of \$10 million.
- ★ 12/2021– Unplugged drain releasing a torrent of water from the marquee.
- ★ 2/2022– Damschroder completed new roof over marquee.
- ★ 3/2022 – Extol of Ohio fabricated the letters of “NORWALK” out of fiberglass and were then painted by Josh Shaull of Rain Drop Products in Ashland.
- ★ 4/2022 – Wheeler Sheet Metal removed the old “NORWALK” signs from the marquee to be refabricated.
- ★ 8/29/2022 – The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior listed Norwalk Theatre on the National Register of Historic Places, presenting further grant opportunities for restoration of theater
- ★ 9/2022– Found that the headers from the original candy shoppe are still inside the wall.
- ★ 3/2023– Paint analysis was conducted to determine original paint colors in key places in the theater. Received a grant to cover this cost.
- ★ 5/2023– Wheeler Sheet Metal replaced the newly fabricated “NORWALK” signs back on the marquee.
- ★ 7/2023– Brady Signs works on the LED roping for the marquee that replaces the neon tubing.



Isn't that impressive? All volunteer driven! Every dollar needed to complete these jobs came from private donors and a \$250,000 State of Ohio grant. Together, let's get the doors open and marquee lit again to bring arts, culture, families, and more memories to this historic gem. For questions on how to donate or get involved, please visit our website at norwalkartscenter.org.



NAC Teen Ambassadors and adult volunteers lived our motto of Creating Art – Building Community with two events this summer.

Under the direction of co-founder Vanessa Cook, ART Club teens designed and built two photo op stands for Norwalk Jaycees' Strawberry Festival in May. NAC also invited families to take part in six arts and entertainment activities in our headquarters at 22 E. Main St. on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, including a coloring contest with gift certificates from local businesses for winners. Jaycees paid for supplies for the event and our space was filled with families enjoying karaoke and making take-home art projects.



In July, NAC provided three art projects for ROY children and their mentors at their annual picnic at Norwalk Reservoir. NAC volunteers extended the planned time to let as many youths as possible enjoy our projects and even sent some home with supplies in baggies. We made some new friends at both events and are very grateful for our dedicated volunteers for helping NAC spread our message – Art is for everyone!

Norwalk Arts Center Now: Arts Education is for Everyone!

In the not-so-distant past, arts education was reserved mainly for the wealthy, and the offerings were limited to certain types of dance and theatre. Times have certainly changed, especially for communities served by Norwalk Arts Center, and now every individual has the opportunity to learn about all the arts and express their creativity and individuality through them!

The Arts Education Committee has developed programming for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, from Arts Explorers for grades 1 through 4 to Discover Your NAC for adults. Students can learn about all facets of the arts—music, visual art, dance, and theatre—in a safe and welcoming environment that allows freedom of expression.

Norwalk Arts Center has witnessed even students who struggle physically and/or emotionally absolutely blossom in their creativity and confidence through our arts education programs. Connections have been made and friendships formed, and we have witnessed our slogan of “Creating Art. Building Community.” absolutely come to life!

Passionate, enthusiastic committee members and instructors work together to create programming that is both appealing and fun. Generous grant funding from Ohio Arts Council, GeoTrac Foundation, Huron County Community Foundation and Huron County United Fund makes these programs affordable (and sometimes free), and scholarships exist for families with financial strain.

We love to embrace the history of our beautiful Norwalk Theater, but the Arts Education Committee is also extremely excited to expand our offerings and include even more of our community in them!



The Last 5 Years...but not the musical!

For those who are fans of modern musical theatre, hearing the phrase “The Last Five Years” will spark familiarity with a musical of the same name. Of course, our co-founders could probably break into song with their favorite from the show, as well as many other numbers. Norwalk Arts Center’s journey started in 2018. It was kismet for two veterans of theatre to cross paths. The cofounders met when Theresa was directing St. Paul’s musical, and Vanessa offered to help her with the show.

The two began talking about local theater and opportunities for the community. They discovered that there was not much available to the public. With much consideration, the two began to form Norwalk Arts Center, LLC, a non-profit to serve the people of Huron county by providing theater and arts education.

Eventually, the conversation turned to the abandoned uptown theater space. The two made some phone calls and found the space was available for purchase. Without offices, the pair worked out of their dining rooms and formed NAC. The ladies hand picked board members who shared the same desire to create an arts community. NAC’s performance offerings continue to grow. NAC has proudly produced three junior musicals, two teen musicals, three adult murder mysteries, a musical review and held three Summer theatre camps. Additionally, NAC has provided four free public performances to area school children, reaching thousands of area students. Theresa and Vanessa are grateful to the board, students, families and professional artists that have made their daydreams come to fruition.



Co-Founders: Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

Ex-Officio Chair: Theresa Barcus

Restoration Chair: Jeff Cook

Grants Chair: Mary Lisa Boose

Production Chair: Marina Bayless

Business Affairs: Lisa Bleile

Arts Education Chair: Tiina Ruffing

Fundraising Chair: Dina Lukasko

Secretary: Vanessa Cook

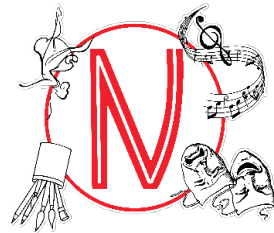
Treasurer: Kathleen Sigsworth

Vice President: Jeffrey Cook

President: Dina Lukasko

Board of Directors

Norwalk Arts Center



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Norwalk Arts Center

Creating Art. Building Community.



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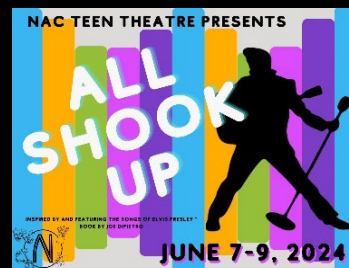


Save the Dates:

A.I.M. Club (Gr 5-8) Art Pop Ups @Sheri's Coffee House
Begins Sept 8, 2023 continues 2nd Friday of each month
through May

A.R.T. Club Meetings (Gr 9-12) Sept 16, 2023 10 am
Discover Your NAC (Adult Programming) August 31st,
2023 Alcohol Ink Workshop

Arts Explorers (Gr 1-4) October 7 10a-2p "Set the Stage"



2024 Season



Interested in sponsoring a show or advertising for the season?
Contact NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com for more
information. Reach your customers and support the arts.

Thank you to our generous and continuous benefactors:



Ohio Arts
COUNCIL



HURON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



NORWALK AREA UNITED FUND

Thanks to our friends at CLI, Inc for folding and labeling our quarterly newsletters.