

## NORWALK ARTS CENTER

### Future is OPEN for the Historic Norwalk Theater

Living in a small town, rumors fly quickly at local spots like the coffee shop and post office. However, it is also the pipeline and community enthusiasm the Norwalk Arts Center Co-founders and Board of Directors have come to embrace while undertaking the long-awaited resurgence of the Norwalk Theater. Since purchasing the old building in June of 2019, the buzz about town has been “What are they thinking?” “Good luck with that!” “So glad someone is taking the initiative!” and “What are they going to do with that building?”

As a group, we feel strongly and passionate about this project. No luck needed-- just lots of hard work! That is exactly what has been happening since June. NAC has raised over \$70,000 towards the much-needed rehabilitation of the theater. In our temporary home at 22 E Main Street we have provided arts education to 100's of children, offered events for the community, spent hours in planning meetings, and collaborated with other non-profits for mutual success. As members of the board, we have attended conferences to learn best practice and created temporary theater space. We have recruited volunteers, who have given countless hours to clean, prepare, sort and preserve the Norwalk Theater.



CLYDE THEATER, FORT WAYNE, IN



AGORA THEATRE, CLEVELAND, OH

The hope of NAC is to create not just a theater for Norwalk, but a place in which the community can take pride. As we continue the heavy lifting, we envision a facility that will provide space for so much more than just movies. To be successful, modifications will need to happen to make the space a multiform theater. The phased project will begin with the full roof removal and replacement, demo of the ceiling, and removal of seating. Often in a multiform theater, the orchestra floor is leveled and the seats removed to create a large, flexible, flat floor

area. The main floor seating will be designed to allow for comfortable private seating, as well as traditional seating options. This modification will allow for interchangeable tables, chairs, row seating and open space. The ceiling will be left exposed to house trusses, top of the line lighting and sound equipment, a cat walk, and sound panels.

A multiform theater can be reconfigured to change the actor-audience relationship and the seat count. Side wall seating towers can be positioned to change the venue's proportion, making the space more intimate for smaller events and grand for large gatherings. The Norwalk Arts Center will be a community spot to host receptions, concerts, conferences, entertainment acts, live theater and, yes, movies!

**Follow our progress on Facebook/NorwalkArtsCenter**



HANNA THEATRE, CLEVELAND, OH

## Building Community Beyond Huron County.

*Written by Vanessa Cook, NAC Co-founder*

The motto of Norwalk Arts Center, "Creating Art. Building Community." is expanding beyond Huron County. In January, as preparations began on the full removal and replacement of the roof in anticipation of creating NAC as a multiform facility, volunteers helped to clean out storage rooms and remove over 500 seats on the main floor of the theater.

What to do with nearly 500 seats that have been sitting in a vacant building for eight years? In 2020, you take to the internet! The seats were listed on local garage sale sites, Craigslist and Facebook. Several responses ensued from individuals that wanted a few for home theaters and man caves. The hope, however, was to find another organization that could reuse the seats for their intended purpose.

That is when NAC received an inquiry from Tammy Kuntz, Coordinator of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - North Central Jurisdiction. Kuntz asked if NAC would be interested in working with them to send the seats to the Manos Juntas Mission in Mexico.



FUTURE NUEVO PROGRESO COMMUNITY CENTER

"We are working on building a community center in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico," Kuntz wrote. "The seats (will) be used in the center." The NAC board agreed that the seats would be best used for this purpose and so began the planning of seat

removal and shipping logistics.

The Nuevo Progreso Community Center will house an auditorium and new family medical center. The auditorium will have movie nights, plays, concerts and folk dancing lessons for the locals.

Another inquiry came from Geauga County's Curtain 440, a non-profit theater group that was established in 2019. The theater has been functioning in temporary space over the last year. Despite not having a permanent home as of yet, Curtain 440 managed to put on productions at various area venues throughout 2019 and has a slate of plays in the works for 2020. A permanent base in Geauga County is being sought. "We are actually looking to lease space and need seats," stated Angela Hansen, Founder of Curtain 440.

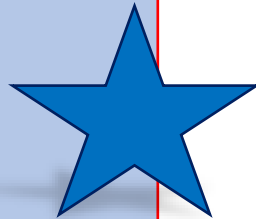
"It's been great to find two other non-profit organizations that can benefit from our efforts to build Norwalk Arts Center," stated Board President Dina Lukasko. "Both groups were thrilled with the opportunity to reuse the seats."

Over the weekend of January 18, 2020, nearly 50 volunteers spent the weekend removing and loading the old seats into trucks. Kathleen Sigsworth, NAC Treasurer, supervised the efforts along with Co-founder, Vanessa Cook. "We have been so blessed with amazing volunteers who have been instrumental in bringing our vision to life. Removing the seats is a first step in what will be an amazing transition," Cook said.

## FRIENDS OF NAC

**Special thanks to these amazing volunteers for helping with clean up and demolition.**

- ☆ Brad Riley
- ☆ Tony Barman
- ☆ Greg Smith
- ☆ John & Sarah Camp
- ☆ Rance Souslin
- ☆ Devon Miller
- ☆ Amber Irwin
- ☆ James Farmer
- ☆ St Paul Men's Basketball
- ☆ Boys Scouts: Daphne Forney, Kayla Nolan, Annabelle Ortner
- ☆ Robin, Makayla, Joselynn and Deanna Vazquez
- ☆ Craig & Debbie Moffit
- ☆ Gregg & Julie Smith
- ☆ Robert Been
- ☆ Tom Tinnel
- ☆ Stone Striker
- ☆ Ed Barman
- ☆ Brad Billman
- ☆ Maxx Myers
- ☆ Jeff Mynarsky
- ☆ Eric & Denise Weisenberger
- ☆ NAC Board and Families



Upcoming Events:



**February 3, 2020**

Registration opens for the children's musical theatre program begins. Open to children grade 2 through 8, the 10-week program includes classes twice a week, music CD, script, costumes, show bag, two comp tickets and participation in 2 performances.

Cost is \$150.00 per student, and siblings in the same household are an additional \$75.00.

The registration fee is due at the time of registration, and no refunds will be granted after week one.

Classes begin the week of March 9, 2020 with performances May 15-16-17, 2020.

Register @ [NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events)



**February 23, 2020**

Friends of NAC are organizing a bus trip to see St Paul grad, Norwalk native and local talent, Daniel Ruffing, present his work at Baldwin - Wallace. Cost for the trip, which includes show ticket and transportation, will be \$40.00. Money raised from these tickets will benefit BW's Arts Management Association (AMA).

**Limited tickets are being sold.**  
First come, first served.

Students under 18 will need parental permission.

Email your interest in going to [NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com)

**SPRING BREAK CLASSES**

Norwalk Arts Center will offer three hands on "Out of the Box Art" sessions during the spring break as part of the newly formed **Arts Explorers** club.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities in the four facets of the arts: music, dance, visual arts and theater.

Each session will run from 10 am to 2 pm, and students are asked to bring a sack lunch.

All sessions will be held at NAC@22 (22 E Main St), and the cost to participate is \$10.00 per student. The minimum number for the class to run is 15 students with a max of 30 students per session.

Class registration opens **March 23, 2020**  
[@NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events)

**Session 1 (grades 9-12):**

April 4, 2020 from 10-2 pm

**Session 2 (grades K-4):**

April 14, 2020 from 10-2 pm

**Session 3 (grades 5-8 ):**

April 16, 2020 from 10-2 pm

**Explore the Arts with NAC!**

**March 22, 2020 –Ladies Teacup Auction with Wine and Roses Fundraiser! 4- 6 pm @ Milestone Event Center**

Light hors'dourves and refreshments will be available as you bid on the auction items or create a beautiful Spring "Make & Take" arrangement led by Danielion Florist of Wakeman. Take a chance at winning a \$100 bottle of wine at the wine pull and learn more about the story of the Norwalk Arts Center and our vision for the Norwalk Theater! **Single Ticket:** \$40.00/per person includes 10 raffle tickets, one raffle ticket for the door prize and two complementary drink tickets **Group Tickets:** Table for 8 for \$350, which includes 10 raffle tickets, one door prize ticket per person and 2 bottles of wine for your table. Limited Seating. Reserve your spot today @ [NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org/events) (21 and over for this event)

**SPOTLIGHT:** Peter Miragliotta, Sr. has been named Vice-President of the Norwalk Arts Center Board of Directors. Miragliotta is a native of Cleveland and is the CEO of Tenable Protective Services. Peter is a former Cleveland Police officer and a Marine Corp. veteran. His "fighting spirit" allowed him to take control of a company on the edge of bankruptcy and lead it back to prosperity, thus enabling Tenable to become the largest privately-owned security and events staffing company in the state of Ohio. He is also President of Mira Productions, a promotion and entertainment company.

He has served on several boards and committees, including: Previous Chairman - Ohio Private Investigators & Security Services Commission (O.P.I.S.S.C.); Vice President Security - Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services (OASIS); Trustee - Northeast Ohio Chapter of OASIS (NEOC/OASIS); and Legislative Committee Chairman - American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS). His business and non-profit board experience has been a welcomed addition to the NAC Board of Directors.





**Save the date!**

April 24, 2020- Murder Mystery Auditions  
April 27, 2020- Star Bus Tour Returns  
May 15-17, 2020- Peter Pan, Jr  
May 22, 2020- The Imaginators  
June 5-6, 2020- Murder Mystery Show  
June 26, 2020- Fourth Friday  
July 24, 2020- Fourth Friday  
August 28, 2020- Fourth Friday

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

**NAC Contact Information:**

**Email:**  
NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com

**Website:**  
NorwalkArtsCenter.org

**Call:**  
567-220-0011

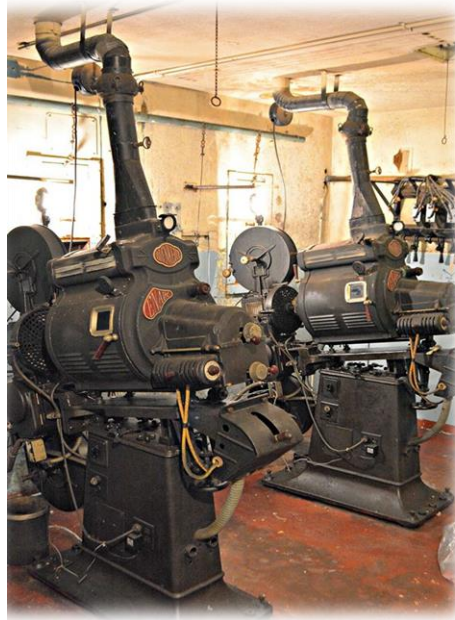
**Mail:**  
Norwalk Arts Center  
PO Box 656  
Norwalk, Oh 44857

**Follow us on**  

**Picture it**

**Historic Norwalk Theater**

Do you have pictures of the Norwalk Theater? We would love to see them and share them in our newsletter!



Norwalk Art Center  
PO Box 656  
Norwalk, OH 44857  
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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

**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.**