

## Volunteers Are Vital for NAC Growth

Volunteers are an integral part of our growth and success! NAC would not exist if it were not for volunteers since our entire nonprofit organization is made up of volunteers. Our Board of Directors spend countless hours making sure Norwalk Arts Center can provide adult and children's programming without losing sight of the design and construction planning for the renovation of the iconic Norwalk Theater.



This past year NAC has produced *Matilda Jr.*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, and *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee*. Volunteers ran the “front of the house” as ticket takers, concessions, ushers, as well as selling raffle tickets and well wishes for our actors. For *The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater*, *Last Dance of Doctor Disco*, NAC had volunteers bartend, sell tickets, prepare desserts, set up/tear down, decorate, usher, and entertain those in attendance. Each quarter volunteers help print and fold this newsletter. There are countless other duties that NAC relies on volunteer efforts to complete.

Volunteering can also help your personal growth. Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You will feel a natural sense of accomplishment when you are doing good for others and your community. Your role as a volunteer can give you a sense of pride and belonging.

No matter what your interests and talents are, NAC has volunteer opportunities for you! If you are interested in volunteering for Norwalk Arts Center, please go to [norwalkartscenter.org](http://norwalkartscenter.org) and complete the volunteer registration form or attend our volunteer appreciation night.

## Norwalk Arts Center Volunteer Appreciation Night

Let us celebrate you...our volunteer! You are invited to attend a volunteer appreciation night on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be meeting at 22 East Main Street, Norwalk.

There will be desserts, drinks, and prizes. Come and find out about what our volunteers have helped NAC accomplish and our future plans.

Help “grow” our volunteers by bringing along a friend/relative and you will be entered into a special drawing. To attend please go to [norwalkartscenter.org](http://norwalkartscenter.org) to register.

Registration deadline is April 15, 2023.



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## Restoration gives new growth opportunities and partnerships

It may seem like nothing's happening at the theater, but there is plenty going on behind the scenes. Three contractors have been piecing together a plan to bring the marquee back to its original luminous landmark.

We have very few resources to tell us what the original colors were, as most pictures from the grand opening have been lost to time or were black and white photos. The marquee was in such poor condition that it was determined the metal needed to be completely replaced as it was too far gone to simply patch and repaint. It was also no surprise to the committee that all the electrical wiring needed to be updated. Electrical components have improved a bit since 1941. The neon lights are being converted to LED rope lighting and the marquee bulbs will look the same as the original but will be energy-efficient LED bulbs.

The plan is to use midnight blue, white and metallic gold with red lighting where the neon was and clear bulbs as was original. Wheeler Sheet Metal has been working inhouse on replicating the existing structure piece by piece. With the help of mechanical engineer, Brooke Leslie, an Auto-Cad drawing and 3D model is helping us to visualize the color schemes.

Steve Wheeler said "it's such an amazing challenge for Matt and I to get the opportunity to be a part of this project and be able to tell our family that we helped make that happen!" Wheeler has also enlisted the help of local company Extol of Ohio to fabricate the new letters of the "NORWALK" section. They will never rust.



Not to scale\* Not for production purposes\*  
Colors are not to hue/accurate\*



Those letters are now in the hands of Josh Shaull of Rain Drop in Ashland. Josh will be painting the letters and the metal Wheeler will be fabricating. Josh says he's "excited to see the theater come back to life and have my skills be a part of that."

Next will be coordinating with Brady Signs of Sandusky to install the new wiring and electrical components. Dick Brady and David Mack with Brady Signs said it best, "Brady Signs is proud to partner with the Norwalk theater (NAC) on the renovation of its historic building. As a third-generation company, we know the importance of honoring our past and creating a lasting vision for our future. That is exactly the role that the renovation of the Norwalk theater has in this community. Across the nation, historic theatres are being demolished or left in ruin, leaving behind the essence of the culture and artistic expression that once made these buildings vibrant gathering places. Norwalk's philanthropists, business people and friends have resolved not to let this building be another run-down theater.

We believe the restoration of this building will reignite the cultural arts in Norwalk and will bring together people of all generations to share in the joy that is embedded in so many of our memories. We believe that the Norwalk theater has the ability to weave culture, artistry and community together in a powerful way. This theater is part of the legacy of the Norwalk community. We are honored to be a part of bringing this building back to life."

Watch for the relighting of this beauty by early summer. Coming soon to a theater near you!!!



### Arts Education Committee Plants Seeds of Creativity, Builds Youth Art Community

Since its inception, the NAC Arts Education Committee has developed programming for the youngest members of our community, encouraging them to try all the facets of the arts while building a community of supportive, creative friends. The Arts Explorers program has consistently grown in its membership, with an average of 3 young new explorers at each quarterly session. Guest artists share their expertise and passion to help participants learn a new skill in the arts.

Tapping into these youth programming roots, the committee has developed arts education programming for older teens with the AIM (Artists in the Making) Program for 5th through 8th grade and ART (Arts Resources for Teens) Club for 9th through 12th graders.

AIM meets once a month and focuses on make-and-take projects that can also benefit the community. This school year, AIM participants worked together to create a flag mosaic that was donated to Ohio Veterans Home. In February, they will be making yarn hearts that will be donated to area nursing home residents.



ART Club also meets monthly and focuses on introducing teens to arts experiences throughout our region. Membership began with students from one or two area schools and has now expanded to include students from six area schools who support one another in their arts endeavors. In December, participants worked together to create display pieces for the Norwalk Jaycees Christmas Drive-thru Event.

Members of the Arts Education Committee are educators, artists, parents, and individuals passionate about a vibrant arts future for all ages in our area. If you are interested in being a member of the committee, please email us at [norwalkartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkartscenter@gmail.com).

### NAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Comedy night!

Grab some friends and join NAC in laughing all night with the second annual standup comedian show. Featuring Nick Dlouhy as opener and Steve Sabo as our headlining act. **Saturday, April 22, 2023** at Milestone Event Center, 11 S. Prospect St., Norwalk. Doors open at 6pm, show starts at 7pm.

Tickets for the night are \$25 and include admission, pizza, salad, and dessert. Cash bar with beer, wine, seltzer, soda and water. We will have multiple fundraisers throughout the night to support the renovation of the historic Main Street theater! Bring your cash and support your local art community. Fundraisers throughout the night include; gun raffle - \$20/per chance, liquor ring toss - \$1/per chance and more! Show rated PG 13+, 21+ event. Buy online at [NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org)





Co-Founders: Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

Ex-Officio Chair: Theresa Barcus

Restoration Chair: Jeff Cook

Grants Chair: Mary Lisa Boose

Production Chair: Farrah Hales

Business Affairs: Lisa Bleile

Arts Education Chair: Tiina Ruffing

Fundraising Chair: Dina Lukasko

Secretary: Vanessa Cook

Treasurer: Kathleen Sigsworth

Vice President: Jeffery Cook

President: Dina Lukasko

Board of Directors

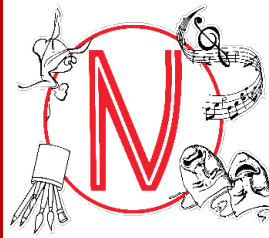
Norwalk Arts Center

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PO Box 656

Norwalk Arts Center



Creating Art. Building Community.

Return Service Requested



### Save the Dates:

**A.I.M. Club** (Gr 5-8) Art Pop Up's @Sheri's Coffeehouse

Feb10, March 10, April 14, 3-4:15 pm

**A.R.T. Club Meetings** (Gr 9-12) Feb March field trip

**Arts Explorers** (Gr 1-4) March 4 10-2 pm

**Ireland Raffle Ticket Pull-** March 17 @ Bluto's Hometown Tavern

**NAC Teen Theatre** (Gr 9-12) Open Auditions March 27-28, 6-8 pm

for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Performance dates June 9-11, 2023

**Discover Your NAC** (Adult Programming)

Journaling Workshop with Nora Knople, Feb 23, Macrame

Workshop with Brandy Frank, March 14

**2nd Annual Comedy Night** April 22- Milestone Event Center

**Volunteer Appreciation Night** April 26 (registration required)

Visit our webpage for more information about all of our programs  
and to register! [NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org)

Feeling Lucky?

Win a trip for two  
to Ireland!



Only 50 tickets of 300 left.

Each ticket is \$100.

Drawing for the winner will  
be on...you guessed it

Friday, March 17, 2023

All proceeds from this raffle go directly to  
the Restoration Fund for the historic  
Norwalk Theater. Buy your ticket at  
[NorwalkArtsCenter.org](http://NorwalkArtsCenter.org).



Thank you to our generous and continuous benefactors:



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