

Looking Back, Moving Forward: 2023 Restoration Fund Kick-Off

As Norwalk Arts Center enters its fifth year it's time to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished and plan for what's next. Through the tireless efforts of our team of volunteers we have brought theater and arts education to Norwalk proving that there was a need to be filled.

Children, families and friends here and in surrounding communities have found their voice with us and we are eager to expand our brand by offering more opportunity for budding young performers and seasoned veterans looking for a place to belong.

Knowingly, we look to 2023 as the year to make the big move and put into motion plans to bring the historic Norwalk Theater back. Through the support of the community and grants from the state, we have been able to get a new roof on the building. This was a key first step as nothing could move forward until the building was dry. Sweat equity offered by our small band of volunteers allowed us to clean out the interior main floor and funding from the state will result in the repair of our spectacular marquee! Along with the roof, one of our greatest accomplishments has been getting our designation on the National Registry of Historic Places. With this distinction, we brought in architects, experienced in historic restoration, to assess the space and put together a plan for what the theater can be.

Equipped with a dry building and a plan, we are excited to move forward in our effort to establish the Norwalk Theater as more than just a home for Norwalk Arts Center but also a community gathering place. The proposed renovations will create a space not only suited to theatrical production but also a flexible space that can be used to host events of all types and sizes. Situated in the heart of downtown, this new space will draw people to Main Street resulting in a robust demand for surrounding businesses including restaurants, bakeries, hotels and more.

Are you excited? We are. Of course, all things take money. Our team of volunteers have been hard at work learning how to apply for and write grant proposals with some success. We are currently navigating the ins and outs of historic tax credits as another means of reducing costs but the reality is a full restoration of the theater is estimated to cost \$10 million.

Yes, it's a lot. This we know but we also know that demand for the theater and a new community gathering space is there and our team will work tirelessly until we deliver what was promised when the building was purchased in 2019. We are grateful for the donations by many in the community to assist in the day-to-day operations of NAC. Rent, utilities, supplies, advertising...the list goes on and on.

We will continue to rely on the kindness of these donors to maintain the programs we have already put into place, but 2023 will launch the Norwalk Theater Restoration Fund starting with the 2022-2023 Annual Appeal. This fund will be earmarked to directly impact the renovations of the building.

We know that \$10 million can't be generated overnight so we are looking for long-term investment from community businesses and residents to give us a



revenue stream that will allow us to put our plan into motion. We ask you to consider an investment in our community by donating to the Restoration Fund as we are currently preparing a benefits brochure highlighting the varying levels of commitment.

When available, please review and share with companies and individuals who you feel would be interested in being a part of this transformative project. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, donations to our organization are deductible.

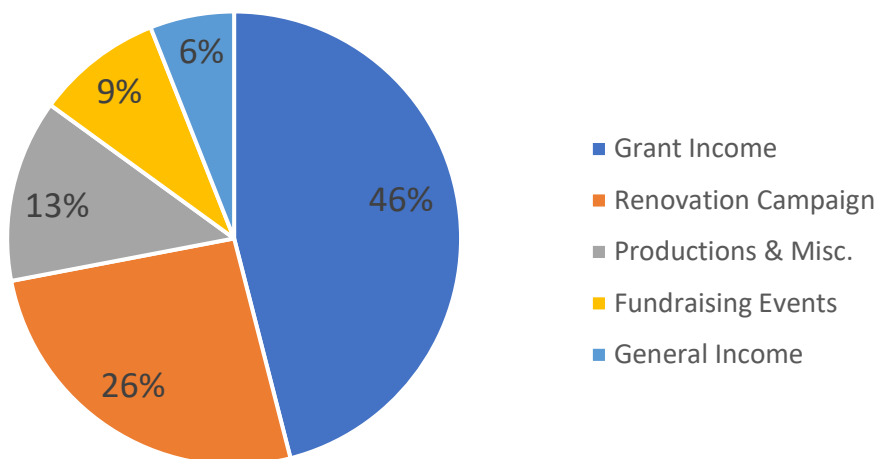
The future looks bright for Norwalk Theater. Become a part of our vision.

Warm Regards,
Dina Lukasko, NAC Board President

NAC Financial Report: FY 2022

(Oct. 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2022)

Total Income



Total Income - \$317,851

Grant Income (46%) - \$144,506

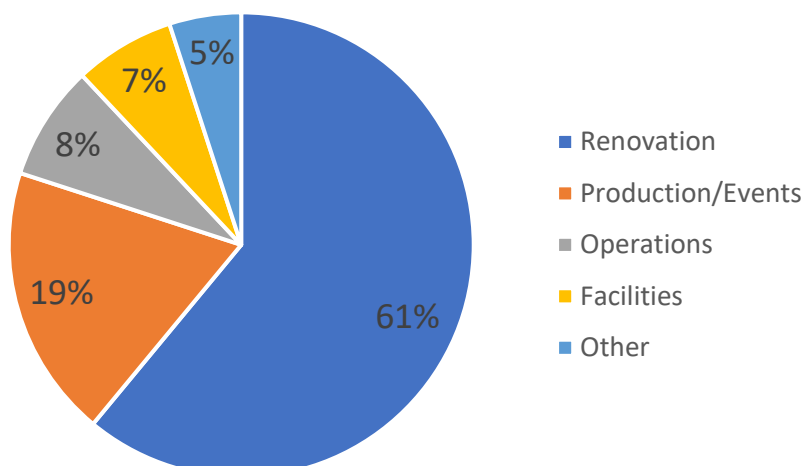
Renovation Campaign (26%) - \$82,405

Productions & Misc (13%) - \$41,594

Fundraising Events (9%) - \$29,251

General Income (6%) - \$20,095

Total Expenses



Total Expenses - \$230,361

Renovation (61%) - \$141,436

Production/Events (19%) - \$43,686

Operations (8%) - \$19,071

Facilities (7%) - \$15,514

Other (5%) - \$10,653

Arts Education Programs Builds Strong Foundation for Future Artists

Looking back at all the great arts education programs Norwalk Arts Center has developed since the organization's inception, it's hard to believe that they were all produced offsite or in our satellite location at 22 East Main Street, and so many of them in the midst of a pandemic!

Arts Explorers has introduced kids in grades 1 through 4 to all facets of the arts (visual art, music, dance, and theatre) in programs with fun, engaging themes. The Artists in the Making (AIM) Program has offered students in 5th through 8th grade pop-up sessions with fun art projects at Sheri's Coffeehouse. Art Resources for Teens (ART) Club has allowed students in grades 9-12 to participate in community events, attend performances, and mentor younger students. Our junior and teen theatre troupes have produced four musical productions, and we have hosted both a junior and a teen theatre camp, both with productions of their own, all at our 22 East Main Street location.



Whew! We couldn't be more proud of what we have accomplished in such a short time with limited resources. When we imagine what our arts education programming could be when we actually have the Norwalk Theater open and available to us, we're almost overwhelmed thinking of the possibilities!

The children in our community would learn about the arts on a grander scale, and the audiences that would enjoy the fruits of their learning would be much larger. More space would allow our children to both literally and figuratively spread their "wings" as they experience different facets of the arts in a state-of-the-art environment. The seeds for future generations would be firmly planted in a historical building brought to new life as our youth develop a lifelong love of the arts.

For all these reasons and more, the renovation and re-opening of our historic Norwalk Theater is, indeed, a worthwhile investment!

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS and SPONSORS!

Ace Hardware Norwalk/Huron
Artist Open Studios
Bonnie Barna
Brook Gfell
Buckeye Excavating and Construction
Carr Law Office
CLI, Inc
Cook Theatre Designs, LLC
Diane and Mark Schaffer
Dilger-Maxwell Insurance Agency
Dina Lukasko, Ewell & Associates
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Huron County Fair Board
Huron County Chamber of Commerce
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Jeff and Vanessa Cook
Kathleen Sigsworth
Law Office of Paul D. Dolce
Lesch Upholstery
Mark & Jen Libertowski
Mid-Town Shopping Center
Miller's Grocery
Mira Family Charity
Norwalk F.O.E Club 711
Norwalk Jaycees
Norwalk Library
Norwalk Lions Club
Norwalk Parks and Rec

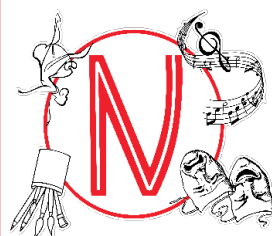
NORWECO
Quality Welding
R.A. Bores Excavating
RKS Power Solutions
Roll It Forward
Sheri's Coffeehouse
Stine Dental
The Chapel- Sandusky
The Honey Hole
Tiina Ruffing
Twenty-First Century Foundation
When Pigs Fly

Creating Art. Building Community.



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Norwalk Arts Center

Board of Directors

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Grants Chair: Mary Lisa Boose

Restoration Chair: Jeff Cook

Ex-Officio Chair: Theresa Barcus

Co-Founders: Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

Save the Dates:

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

Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, 3-4:15 pm

Annual Appeal begins Nov 15

Ireland Trip Raffle Kick off Nov 18

Matilda Jr Performances Nov 18-20

A.R.T. Club Meetings (Gr 9-12) Nov 26, 10-12pm

Light Up Norwalk Make and Take Craft Nov 26, 5-6:30pm

Arts Explorers (Gr 1-4) Dec 3, Feb 4, 10-2 pm

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)

Frosting Fundamentals Dec 6, 6-9 pm

NACtors: Open Auditions for Broadway Revue Dec 12 & 13 6-8 pm,
Performances Feb 10 & 11

Horse Race Fundraiser Feb 18

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

**Norwalk Art Centers Jr. Theatre
Presents**



ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

22 E. Main St, Norwalk, OH
Nov. 18, 19 & 20, 2022

Thank you to our generous and continuous benefactors:



**HURON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



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