NAC NEWS

Building Committee to Take Us to the Next Stage.

It's an exciting time for the Restoration Committee. Not only is the marquee at the theater coming along nicely, but if you have driven through downtown in the evening, you have seen the "Norwalk" on top of the marquee lit up showing off the new LED lighting. As we continue to work diligently to raise the funds to renovate the historic theater, the time to form a Building Committee is upon us. This committee will begin finalizing the vision of the restoration and taking us from the master plan to the building plan with the contractor. To that end, we have created the Building Committee and are excited to share with you a little about its members. This committee consists of people from the board of Norwalk Arts Center as well as community members. Let's meet the committee.

Todd Bemis is our first community member we would like to introduce. Todd comes to us after retiring from the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) as the Vice President of Operations for 41 years and relocating to the area. Todd brings a wealth of knowledge on theater renovation as he served as the owner's representative for the renovation of the Palace, Lincoln, Ohio and Drexel theaters in Columbus over the years. Todd also oversaw the daily operations of 11 different venues.

John Doyle comes to us from Broadway. John has worked on Broadway on numerous shows through the years. John brings his unique perspective as a Broadway veteran to our team to help us with theater operations and set up. John currently owns a small business in Bellevue focused on wellness.

Kathy Nickoli has agreed to join us in her retirement. Kathy was a past part owner and Vice President for 38 years at Janotta and Herner, Inc. a general building contractor in Monroeville. Kathy brings the unique perspective of the construction trade which will be beneficial as we begin the task of determining the direction of the renovation.

Vanessa Cook, one of our co-founders and board secretary, is the next member to spotlight. Vanessa brings a tremendous amount of technical theatre knowledge to the group as the owner of Cook Theatre Designs as well as her onstage experience. Vanessa is active with many theaters in and around Cleveland providing design work for props, costumes, and sets.

Theresa Barcus, our other co-founder and ex-officio board member, is the next member for you to meet. Theresa has been involved with theatre in one way or another for many years. Theresa has spent time on stage as a performer and behind the scenes as a director for many productions in the community. Theresa is currently involved with shows at Castaway Bay at Cedar Point as their director.

Lastly, our Vice-President and Restoration Committee Chair Jeff Cook rounds out the committee. Jeff has experience in theatre at the community theatre level. Jeff has been in several shows and has served on the stage crew for NAC's junior productions. Jeff helped pay for his college by being the scene shop foreman at Baldwin-Wallace University.

A big thank you to all the members of the Building Committee for agreeing to join us as we begin this step in the process. We are excited to begin working together to bring your historic Norwalk Theater back to life as an anchor for the eastern end of Main Street.













Shining a New Light

Things have been progressing nicely with the marquee at the historic Norwalk Theater. The future home of Norwalk Arts Center will attract patrons and the passerby when it is fully lit. Currently the progress can be appreciated daily; check out the view from 7-11pm each night. Wheeler Sheet Metal has been working tirelessly in the shop to replicate this beauty. Hand flanging the gold trim that will adorn the underside of the marquee. The new trim is slowly being reinstalled. This gold metal trim will outline all the clear light bulbs that will return as progress is made. Dick Brady from Brady Signs has been busy installing the new wire harnesses and sockets in the gold trim. Keep an eye on it. Progress is happening weekly! Our hope is to completely light this icon for Christmas!





Norwalk Theater Offers Future Community Arts Space

Picture this: The brand-new Norwalk Theater home to Norwalk Arts Center, completely renovated and restored. We are celebrating the opening of this theater and you think to yourself. "Ok, what's next?". We are already extensively thinking about the events that would be taking place within the Theatre, and we promise you, it will not remain empty without involvement around the area and within the community. Below is a general idea of what we would like to see happen as the theater opens and we get our feet set in our new, beautiful home.

Movie Wednesdays!
Gallery Art Shows- All year around
Junior Community Theatre - August-November
Teen Community Theatre- April-June
Adult Community Theatre - June-August
Dance Competitions - All year around
Concerts- All year around
Comedian Acts- All year around
Business conferences- All year around
Event space rental- All year around
Recitals- All year around
Arts education- All year around
Music Competitions- All year around

Potentially a College Program for Musical Theatre- All year around

We are enthusiastically talking about what we will pursue at the theater when it's completely renovated. The potential is limitless and the space will be available for a variety of events and activities. There is no doubt of the excitement in the air gearing up for what our future home will look like for the arts and the community.

100 Women Making a Difference for NAC

NAC's mission and vision got a huge boost from the 100 Women Making a Difference organization, with a \$17,600 donation last summer, which is being used for current programming and also for expenses for the complete renovation of the historic Norwalk Theater.

The award shows NAC's mission of Creating Art – Building Community is important to the community, said NAC President Dina Lukasko

"We are so humbled by the support of the 100 Women Making a Difference," Lukasko said. "NAC's future is very bright and 100 Women now share in the inspiration, development and economic impact NAC will bring to the community as we fulfill our mission."







SPOTLIGHT: Rylie Mullen, NAC Production Chair

Rylie Mullen is thrilled to be serving NAC as their new production chair! A senior at Tiffin University, Rylie has been heavily involved in the arts since the age of 5, performing in over 50 shows with companies such as Curtain Call Productions, Caryl Crane Youth Theatre, The Huron Playhouse and Tiffin University Musical Theatre.

The arts have always been a huge part of her life, and she states that, "Without the arts and creativeness, there is no foundation to the exploration of expression, which is very important to me. The reason I am who I am today is because of the arts and what it stands for, for each individual person."

Rylie has been involved in NAC since 2019, and has been involved in many roles, but is excited to now be serving as Production Chair. "I'm thrilled to show more of what NAC can bring to the community by showcasing the best shows that are relevant to the world that we are living in. Our community has so much talent, and supporting this talent is a dream of mine."



Co-Founders: Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

Ex-Officio Chair: Theresa Barcus

Restoration Chair: Jeff Cook

Grants Chair: Mary Lisa Boose

Production Chair: Rylie Mullen

Business Affairs: Lisa Bleile

Arts Education Chair: Tiina Ruffing

Fundraising Chair: Dina Lukasko



Board of Directors
President: Dina Lukasko
Vice President: Jeffery Cook
Treasurer: Kathleen Sigsworth
Gecretary: Vanessa Cook

Norwalk Arts Center

Return Service Requested





Creating Art. Building Community.

MorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com

Norwalk Arts Center PO Box 656

Save the Dates:

 $\textbf{NAC Junior Theatre Production} \ \textit{Willy Wonka, JR}.$

November 17, 18, 19

Discover Your NAC (Adult Programming) Holiday wreath making workshop in partnership with "Watering Can Flowers" November 30 **NAC A.R.T. Club** Christmas Display at the Jaycee's

Christmas Drive thru December 1, 2

Arts Explorers (Gr 1-4) "Grinch Gala" @ 22 E. Main December 2, 10-1pm

A.I.M. Club (Gr 5-8) Magazine Tree project @ Sheri's Coffeehouse December 8, 3:00-4:15pm

NAC A.R.T. Club (Gr 7-12) Vocal Master Class @ 22 E. Main December 9, 2-4pm with guest instructor Dani Hummel-Sass

Discover Your NAC (Adult Programming) "You Don't Know Beans" workshop @Sheri's, December 17, 3:30-5:00pm

A.I.M. Club (Gr 5-8) Puffy Gloves project @Sheri's Coffeehouse January 12, 3:00-4:15pm

Arts Explorers (Gr 1-4) field trip to see Rainbow Fish at Playhouse Square, January 27

"Imagine: A Community Music Event" Feb. 17

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

Thank you to our generous and continuous benefactors:









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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.