

Thank you for your interest in the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

Our facility, in the heart of downtown Appleton, is a nonprofit arts and cultural educational organization that hosts more than 350 events each year. Since opening in 2002, the Center has proudly served as a gathering place for the community to engage in educational opportunities while enhancing a greater understanding and appreciation of life through the live performing arts.

If you are looking for additional information on our mission, related activities or community projects, we invite you to visit our robust social community on Facebook, Instagram (foxcitiespac) and Twitter (@foxcitiespac). Join in the conversation using #foxcitiespac.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our Center. We look forward to seeing you at the theater.



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SPECTACULAR SPACES AT THE FOX CITIES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Thrivent Financial Hall

Thrivent Financial Hall is a premier performance space that has all the amenities of a large hall without sacrificing a sense of intimacy shared between performers and the audience. With seating for 2,072, the stage can accommodate a variety of events from single speaker presentations and conferences to symphony concerts and the largest Broadway shows. The hall provides excellent sightlines and acoustics with only 108 feet separating the stage from the farthest seat on Family Circle. The interior design of the hall features Veneciano plaster walls with dark-stained cherry wood that provides a sense of warmth. Four brass design elements rise to a 65-foot long glass chandelier at the center of the oval dome. Accessible seating and services are available on all levels, including a T-coil compatible hearing loop. The Center is the only Broadway presenting theater in Wisconsin to offer this technology.

Artists and touring companies enjoy the amenities and theatrical luxury of a modern venue. Thrivent Financial Hall features state-of-the-art audio and lighting systems, a complete fly system and Wenger Diva Series orchestra shells for acoustic performances. The floor is a performer-friendly sprung maple deck with black topcoat. Generous backstage accommodations include a spacious green room, ten dressing rooms and a three-bay loading dock.

Kimberly-Clark Theater

The Kimberly-Clark Theater is a flexible theater and reception space used for a variety of performances and community functions, with interior design elements that are far more appealing than a typical “black box” theater. Retractable telescopic seating risers accommodate up to 350 guests and a portable stage platform can easily convert this multi-function room into a proscenium-style theater. The Kimberly-Clark Theater is an acoustically rich space with technical details similar to those in Thrivent Financial Hall, including T-coil compatible hearing loop technology.

Founders Room

The Founders Room is a sophisticated space located just off the Dress Circle Lobby accented by a dramatic strip of windows. It is especially well suited for private meetings and receptions of up to 75 guests.

Entrance 21 Luxury Suite

The Entrance 21 Luxury Suite is a private “skybox” for the performing arts with 12 spacious seats on Dress Circle, a private valet entrance and a personal suite attendant to see to guests’ hospitality needs. This space is commonly reserved for groups celebrating milestones, impressing clients and colleagues and entertaining family and friends.

Main Lobby and Dress Circle Lobby

The main entrance to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center features a large rotunda with an impressive four-level atrium. The atrium extends across the entire south face of the building and features a grand staircase to the upper levels of the theater. Each landing of these upper levels becomes part of the lobby space getting progressively smaller as they reach the top.

From each landing, patrons see and experience the total lobby space. Large glass windows enclose the exterior wall of the lobby, allowing the patrons to look out onto College Avenue. A large sloped skylight at the east end of the lobby rises above the ceiling of the Founders Room. Two elevators provide access to all levels of the lobby with ample restroom facilities and concession stands throughout.

Lobby areas are not available for private functions during events held in Thrivent Financial Hall, and cannot be reserved independently of each other.

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MOMENTS AND MILESTONES AT THE FOX CITIES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Dream Begins September 1999

After decades of discussion, the Fox Cities' dream of a performing arts center launched in September 1999 when Thrivent Financial for Lutherans pledged \$8 million to the project. Twelve founding members met for the nonprofit organization's first board of directors meeting.

Finding a Home February 2000

The City of Appleton and the Appleton Redevelopment Authority dedicated \$4.2 million to acquire and prepare the site.

Breaking Ground May 2000

The Boldt Company broke ground on a world-class theater designed by Zeidler Roberts Partnership, Inc. In just 31 months, the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center became a landmark in Downtown Appleton.

Community Support June 2000

Fourteen Fox Cities municipalities committed to the construction of the Center with room tax revenues, making it a regional effort.

Raising Funds November 2002

Within three years, more than 2,700 dedicated individuals, families, businesses (including employee gift matches), municipalities and foundations pledged \$45 million to the Fox Cities P.A.C.'s Capital Campaign.

The Curtain Rises Nov. 25, 2002

More than 1,500 patrons attended a breathtaking Opening Night Gala featuring legendary singer Tony Bennett.

Grand Opening Festivities Nov. 29, 2002

The community celebrated the grand opening with an Open House and *Realizing Dreams*, a collaborative performance led by the Center's resident partner, the Fox Valley Symphony.

The Education Series Begins Dec. 4, 2002

More than 2,000 elementary students filled the Center for two performances of *Franklin's Class Concert*. By the end of the first series of programming the education series welcomed nearly 19,822 students from 199 schools.

*Americans for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity III

**The Economic Impact for Touring Broadway 2008-2009 by The Broadway League

Dance Queens Unite Jan. 21 – Feb. 2, 2003

Mamma Mia! danced its way into the community's hearts as the first Broadway show to grace the Center's stage and started the tradition of being Wisconsin's premiere destination.

World Leaders Visit the Fox Cities 2003-04 Season

Fox Cities residents had rare opportunities to connect with world leaders including Mikhail Gorbachev and President George W. Bush.

Opening a Window to the World with Arts Alive! 2004-05 Season

Formally the Performing Arts Series, the Arts Alive! Series is established with a mission to bring the world's cultures through live theater to the Fox Cities. Popular programs from this season included Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Soweto Gospel Choir and Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater.

Annual Partners Make A Difference 2004-05 Season

The community embraced the Center's mission by supporting the launch of the Annual Partner Campaign in the 2004-05 season. In the first year alone, 467 local businesses, foundations and individuals invested in the arts.

A Roaring Success May 10 – June 17, 2007

More than 88,000 people helped put the Fox Cities P.A.C. on the arts and culture map by attending Disney's *The Lion King*. The Wisconsin premiere was the Center's longest running show to date!

The Pride of the Fox Cities May to June 2007

Local artists and school children brought 50 lions and 21 cubs to life for the popular public art project known as *Lions of the Valley*. You can still catch a glimpse of the artwork as you journey throughout the Fox Valley.

Five Years, One Million and Counting 2007-08 Season

The Center celebrated its Fifth Anniversary with a return engagement of a Fox Cities' favorite, *Mamma Mia!* and welcomed its one millionth patron during a performance of *Swan Lake*. Thanks for being one in a million!

Shakespeare on the Fox Oct. 2-4 2007

After years of planning by the *Shakespeare on the Fox* community partners, theater fans were delighted by 11 performances of *The Tempest* performed throughout Northeast Wisconsin by London's AandBC Theatre Company – onstage at the Fox Cities P.A.C., on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus, at the Oneida Pow Wow Grounds and under the night sky in a Berlin farm field.

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Wickedly Successful Feb. 4-28, 2009

The Wisconsin premiere of *Wicked* touched down at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. As the country faced a recession, *Wicked* defied gravity and generated \$18 million* in economic activity for the Greater Fox Cities.

Live from the Fox Cities P.A.C. March 28, 2009

More than four million listeners nationwide tuned in for a live broadcast of Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion"® featuring local talent from right here in the Fox Cities.

The Fox Cities Sings Dec. 11, 2010

The community rang in the 2010 holiday season with Handel's *Messiah* featuring local talent in a 145-member choir with guest soloists and the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Oh, What a Show! June 1-19, 2011

The Wisconsin premiere of *Jersey Boys* drew nearly 40,000 ticket holders to the Fox Cities P.A.C. including 9,338 first time attendees. The Center estimates that *Jersey Boys* alone generated \$9,078,777 in local economic activity.**

Celebrating 10 years in the Spotlight August 17-18 2012

The Center began the 10th Anniversary Season with a community open house. The free two-day event which featured performances by local artists, theater workshops and backstage tours attracted more than 2,000 attendees.

We're in the Loop 2012-13 Season

Thanks to community leaders and support from the Hearing Loss Association of America – Fox Valley Chapter, the Center became the first Broadway presenting theater in Wisconsin to offer a T-coil hearing loop system. The technology is available in Thrivent Financial Hall, the main performance space, the Kimberly-Clark Theater and ticket office, increasing access to patrons with hearing loss throughout the Center.

A Top Stop September 2012

Thanks to your faithful attendance, the Fox Cities P.A.C. was listed among the "Top Stops of the Decade" by Venues Today Magazine. Industry recognition has helped to draw the latest Broadway titles and big name tours to Northeast Wisconsin, including acts like *Straight No Chaser*, Willie Nelson and B.B. King.

Kennedy Center Partners in Education 2012-13 Season

The Fox Cities P.A.C. and the Appleton Area School District were honored to be selected to participate in the Partners in Education Program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The new partnership creates professional development workshops known as Classroom Connections to help educators learn how to use the arts in every curricular area.

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A Community Nutcracker Dec. 14-15, 2012

The Fox Cities P.A.C. along with local arts groups The Makaroff Youth Ballet, Fox Valley Symphony and White Heron Chorale (now known as newVoices) collaborated to create this special holiday production which was enjoyed by nearly 3,500 patrons.

Return of the King April 9-May 5, 2013

Disney's *The Lion King* celebrated its second sold-out engagement. The triumphant four-week return grossed more than \$4.7 million and entertained more than 61,000 patrons. It is estimated that the Fox Cities engagement generated a \$16.5 million economic impact.**

Applauding our Two Million Ticketed Patrons Nov. 13, 2013

Thanks to the community's support and enthusiasm, an important milestone in the Center's history was achieved, the two millionth ticketed patron during *Flashdance – The Musical*.

250,000 Smiles and Counting Feb. 4, 2014

At Omaha Theater on Tour's *The Diary of a Worm, a Spider and a Fly*, the Center celebrated the 250,000 students attending a Bemis Company Education Series performance. That is a quarter of a million smiles, giggles and moments of inspiration and learning filling the Center over the past ten years.

***The Book of Mormon* Shatters House Records Sept. 2014**

When *The Book of Mormon* said "Hello" at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, its first stop in Wisconsin, in Sept. 2014 the fans of the show did not let it go unnoticed. The weeklong engagement broke a house-record at the Center grossing more than \$1.3 million, the most ever for an eight-show Broadway week at the Center. Ticket holders generated an estimated \$5 million* in economic impact in the Fox Cities community!

***it gets better* Brings Important Conversations to the Fox Cities Feb. 16-21, 2015**

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center welcomed *it gets better* featuring members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for a week of community programming related to bullying and promoting a welcoming, inclusive and safe Fox Valley community. The program, co-presented with INCLUDE, put a spotlight on the issue of bullying, inclusion, and issues faced by the LGBTQ community. The week included public performances, visits to local high schools and community conversations.

Keystone Campaign Reaches Initial \$25 Million Goal June 2015

At the end of its 2015 fiscal year, the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center was proud to announce that thanks to continued support of the community, the Keystone Campaign to fund the Center's endowment had reached its initial goal of securing \$25 million. The endowment will provide cash reserves for protecting and maintaining the facility, supporting the Center's mission and world-class programming and providing security in the case of downturns in the economy and unexpected financial obstacles.

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Week of Community Autism Programming Jan. 2016

In partnership with several local organizations and Chicago Children's Theatre's *Red Kite*, *Brown Box*, the Center welcomed the community to explore and promote autism awareness and inclusion through the arts during a special week of community activities Jan. 11-16.

Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards Added to Center Programs 2016-17 Season

The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards is an education initiative designed to celebrate and support the achievements of high school theater programs while developing confidence, creativity and collaboration among students in Northeastern Wisconsin. Experts in the field of performing arts serve as a team of adjudicators to provide feedback and determine awards for participating schools based on their productions. High schools in the program are invited to engage with various educational opportunities throughout the year and participate in workshops with touring artists. Each year, the regional program culminates with an annual awards showcase (modeled after the Tony Awards®) to recognize outstanding student performances. Two students are selected from each year's program to represent the Center Stage Awards at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (also known as The Jimmys®) in New York City.

Putting the Kimberly-Clark Theater in the Spotlight 2016-17 Season

The Center has often offered performances in its more intimate Kimberly-Clark Theater space. The positive experience in this interactive environment invited the creation of the Spotlight Series. The series launched in the 2016-17 Season with *The Irish Comedy Tour*, *A Cabaret with Janis Siegel*, Minnesota-natives *Sonny Knight & The Lakers* and bluegrass group *Slocan Ramblers*.

Spectrum Dance Theater Encourages Community Conversation Feb. 2017

Spectrum Dance Theater spent time in the Fox Cities engaging more than 1,500 people in conversations about race relations, diversity, inclusion, current world events and how we see these issues in our community through a public Arts Alive! performance, an Education Series performance and through a variety of activities as part of the Community Engagement Series.

***Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* Marks End of 2016-17 Season, 30th Wisconsin Broadway Premiere June 2017**

The Center wrapped up a successful 14th Season with the Wisconsin Broadway premiere of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* which also marked the Center's 30th Wisconsin Broadway premiere since opening.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center Celebrates 15th Anniversary Season 2017-18

The Center celebrated its 15th Anniversary season looking forward to its future and recognizing the contributions of the community to its current and continued success.

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ABOUT THE FOX CITIES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Mission

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to serve as a gathering place for the community to engage in educational opportunities and enhance understanding and enjoyment of life through the creation and presentation of the arts. We will do this by providing a premier venue for the performing arts and a dynamic environment for our arts organizations.

Location and Community

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is located in Appleton, Wisconsin, one of 19 communities along the Fox River in East Central Wisconsin collectively known as the Fox Cities. The Fox Cities represent a Metropolitan Statistical Area of 380,000 comprised of mid-sized cities, suburbs, small towns and rural areas. This unique area combines exciting elements of big city life with the small town charm of a tight-knit community.

A Community Gathering Place

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is a gathering place for our region, hosting more than 350 events each year including the best of Broadway, a cultural enrichment series, a daytime education series, community engagement experiences and commercial programming that engages the broader community. Of those 350 events, an average of 140 have been live performances with the remainder being nonprofit fundraisers, meetings, graduations, receptions and weddings.

Economic Impact

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is a positive economic generator in the Fox Cities. In the most recent Americans for the Arts economic study of the 2015-16 Season, the Fox Cities P.A.C. was shown to have generated \$12.9 million of economic activity throughout the season.

Kimberly - Clark Broadway Across America – Fox Cities Series

The Broadway Across America – Fox Cities Series serves as the initial point of access to many of the Fox Cities Performing Art Center's visitors. Attracting the biggest Broadway titles and the best of Broadway's classics, the Fox Cities P.A.C. has become a theater destination. In just 15 years, the Center has attracted visitors from across the state and throughout the Midwest, hosting more than 30 Wisconsin premieres including *Mamma Mia!*, Disney's *The Lion King*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Finding Neverland* and *Waitress*.

Boldt Arts Alive! Series

The Arts Alive! Series provides a window to the world through an eclectic mix of diverse programming spanning all performing arts genres and highlighting cultures from throughout the United States and around the world. Some of the Center's most popular Arts Alive! titles have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Yamato Drummers of Japan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Montana Repertory Theatre's *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Wild Kratts - Live*. As an integral part of the Center's mission, many performances are subsidized to keep the average ticket price starting at \$30.

Spotlight Series

The Spotlight Series brings an intimate experience to the forefront, making the beautiful Kimberly-Clark Theater its home. This space provides the perfect place to spotlight talented performers in an atmosphere that allows audiences to immerse themselves in the performance.

Bemis Company Education Series and related programs

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center's education series is a daytime performance series designed to engage students and connect to what they are learning in the classroom. With an annual average of 23,000 students in attendance, the curriculum-based programs tie directly to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Subsidized student ticket rates of \$5 - \$7 attract schools within a 150-mile radius. The Center also offers programs and learning experiences for teachers through the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Classroom Connections Teacher Workshops and programs such as the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards which celebrates and supports the achievements of high school musical theater programs.

Community First Community Engagement Series

The Community Engagement Series at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is designed to take guests out of their seats and provide an experience beyond the performance on stage. These activities range from demonstrations to post show chats, student workshops to family-friendly fun.