



FOX CITIES
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

Where the Arts Come Alive!



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center • 2022-23 Season



A Performing Arts Center for the Community

Twenty years ago, a visionary community brought the dream of your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to life. The 2022-23 Season was a time to recognize that community for all it has done to take this multicultural gathering place from a dream to a premier venue for the performing arts in the region, an organization that continues to serve people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests.

During the 2022-23 Season, partnerships and collaborations with local arts professionals, businesses and organizations helped shine a spotlight on those who make a difference in the community and bring about life-changing moments for many people of diverse backgrounds. These partnerships demonstrated that various arts experiences at the Center are created by the community for the community. Together, we are creating a space where different perspectives are celebrated, and bridges are built to connect us.

Everyone who has and continues to show support plays a critical role. Big or small, it's all of us coming together that allows the Fox Cities P.A.C. to continue to serve as the multicultural gathering place that it is today. It takes a team and the community to believe in what your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center can be, offering new perspectives and ideas while supporting it from the ground up. These collective efforts, including every ticket purchased and donation given in one season or throughout 20, continue to make a huge impact. Thank you to the dedicated Annual Partners, Keystone donors, Season Ticket Holders, local students and educators, and Fox Cities P.A.C. volunteers and staff who further define our vibrant and diverse community and help share the Center's mission.

Please take a moment to consider what community means to you by reflecting on the impact of the programs and people during your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center's 20th Anniversary Season.



Terry Timm
Terry Timm
Chair, Board of Directors
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

Maria Van Laanen
Maria Van Laanen
President and CEO
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

Community members shared
what the Center's incredible
20th Anniversary meant to them.
Visit foxcitiespac.com to watch the video.

19,358
Volunteer Hours

291
Volunteers

More Than
194,600
Ticketed Patrons

Earned
Income
53%

47%
Contributed
Income

30
Community Engagement
Series Partners

6,004
Community Engagement
Series Activity Attendees

8,061
Mobile App
Users

More Than
400
Ticketed &
Non-Ticketed
Events

927
Scholarship Tickets
Provided

More Than
15,600
Amcor Education
Series Attendees

169
Participating Schools

90
Business Annual
Partners

814
Individual
Annual Partners

The Community Celebrates 20 Years with the Fox Cities P.A.C.

A Spotlight on a Supportive Community

This local, nonprofit arts and multicultural gathering place for the community offers people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests opportunities to engage in live performing arts experiences together. As the President and CEO of the Fox Cities P.A.C., Maria Van Laanen said, "The support of many individuals, organizations, businesses and more made it possible for the Center to be built and share its mission. It was fitting to share this impressive milestone and shine a spotlight on those who brought the Center to life and helped it thrive for the past 20 years."

In the 2022-23 season, the Fox Cities P.A.C. focused on continuing to enhance its accessibility amenities, allowing for an enhancement of the patron experience. New tools with accessibility features were introduced, including a new mobile app and an interactive, award-winning website. Guests can make the most of their time at the Center by using the website and mobile app prior to and during their visit with ease to manage tickets and pre-order drinks and snacks. Gala Pro, a mobile app for real time captioning, and ASL interpretation also continue to enhance patron experience.

Engaging in Cultural Dialogue

A partnership with IndUS of Fox Valley has been instrumental in working with diverse communities in the Fox Cities and beyond. IndUS has developed partnerships to introduce the community to live performing arts experiences featuring cultures of the world including the musical and multicultural celebrations Make Music Day and Rhythms of the World held in downtown Appleton. Balakuntalam Sridhar, former president of IndUS remarked, "We are proud to have such a wonderful performing arts center in our community. This partnership makes it possible to offer wonderful interactions with artists from diverse cultures."

As an invaluable voice representing the local Indian communities, IndUS collaborated with the Fox Cities P.A.C. to bring The Tamburitans, a cultural ensemble that celebrates folk traditions from around the world in song and dance. Beyond the performance on February 18, 2023, the community also participated in a dance workshop with members of The Tamburitans where they observed, learned and danced traditional cultural circle dances.

Individuals had a chance to build connections and establish relationships while sharing in meaningful

moments created through the magic of the live performing arts. As a collective, these experiences invite businesses, organizations and individuals of all backgrounds to come together, enrich their lives, and build a stronger community for ourselves and future generations.

A Multicultural Gathering Place for All

Community engagement activities offer educational, interactive workshops and events that deepen appreciation for the arts. In the 2022-23 Season, 30 Fox Cities P.A.C. partner businesses and organizations helped welcome more than 6,000 people to engaging experiences. Many of these activities through the Community First Community Engagement Series are connected to performances at the Center that expand the experience of what is seen on stage, while some events are a part of a larger community celebration.

Appleton resident, Addie T., and her family have been engaging with the Fox Cities P.A.C. for many years, including as Annual Partners and Season Ticket Holders. Addie's son, a member of the Appleton Boychoir, joined 100 fellow singers from the Appleton Boychoir, Lawrence Community Girl Choir and NEWVoices on stage in a memorable, collaborative and multigenerational performance with GRAMMY® Award-winning group,

Ranky Tanky on January 28, 2023. Addie shared, "My son learned from these professional artists, performed in a professional concert, and had the most inspirational experience – we are so grateful for this access to a wide spectrum of experiences for our family."

Community members experienced a behind-the-scenes glimpse at their Fox Cities Performing Arts Center during the 20th Anniversary Community Open House on April 13, 2023. They engaged in self-guided tours, experienced a free performance in partnership with the Makaroff Youth Ballet, and gained insights about accessibility services, mobile ticketing and more. Season Ticket Holder, Kevin E. commented, "I think it's neat that the Fox Cities P.A.C. has something like this Community Open House so that we, as a community, get to feel like this is our performing arts center. This is our place; we built it together."

The Dream Begins: September 1999

Twelve founding members met for the nonprofit organization's first Board of Directors meeting.

Breaking Ground: May 2000

The Curtain Rises: November 25, 2002

1,500+ patrons attended the Opening Night Gala featuring legendary singer Tony Bennett.

Realizing Dreams: November 29, 2002

Local arts groups come together to perform *Dreaming Blue* in the Center's first public performance.

The Education Series Begins: December 4, 2002



The Next Generation Inspired Through Arts Education Programs

Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program



In its seventh year, the 2022-23 season of the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program welcomed approximately 2,000 students from a record 31 participating high schools within 10 Northeastern Wisconsin counties. Throughout the season, high school students participating in this program built a supportive community with their peers to celebrate and enhance students' achievements in high school musical theater.

Educational opportunities included a vocal workshop with two cast members of the touring Broadway production, *SIX*, in January 2023 and a technical workshop with IATSE Local 470

professional stagehands in February 2023. Olivia H., a 2022-23 Center Stage Program Student Ambassador shared, "Not only has the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program given me some of the best learning experiences, but also opportunities that I never even thought I'd have, let alone in high school." On May 6, 2023, the community came together to show their support and celebrate the participating schools and students for the Center Stage Showcase, featuring a Tony Awards®-style red carpet experience, live performances, recognition and more. This showcase offered students a chance to receive direction from theater professionals, as well as interact and perform on stage alongside their friends and peers from other high schools in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Frank C. Shattuck P.A.T.H.S. Program

High school students from Appleton Central participated in the 2022-23 Frank C. Shattuck Performing Arts Touch the Hearts of Students (P.A.T.H.S.) Program, focusing on the theme "self-worth." Partnering with Catalpa Health, these high school students learned about self-worth and how to incorporate positive self-practices into their daily lives. The students attended a performance of the touring Broadway production of Disney's *ALADDIN* and enjoyed a chat back with three cast members, including Marcus M. Martin who played the Genie.

Using what they learned about self-worth while reflecting on their own uniqueness and individuality, P.A.T.H.S. participants crafted mosaic mirrors at The Fire, a studio located in downtown Appleton for all skill levels to create mosaics, fuse glass, and paint pottery. The students' mirrors and artist statements were on display at the Fox Cities P.A.C. during the performances of Disney's *ALADDIN* in December. Petey James A., a senior at Appleton Central and a 2022-23 P.A.T.H.S. Program participant shared, "I put my full, authentic self into my mosaic mirror."

Sarah R., a school social worker at Appleton Central who worked with the 2022-23 P.A.T.H.S. Program participants commented, "Many of the students had themes of overcoming challenges and it was clear that they felt they were on their way to a much brighter place in their future. I sensed hope for what's to come."



Family First Nights®

The Family First Nights® Program, supported by the Mielke Family Foundation, provided an opportunity for families to connect. In partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley, they created meaningful memories through engaging activities and experienced the magic of live theater. Demani W., a 2022-23 Family First Nights® participant who engaged in the program with his wife and daughter, said, "We wanted to spend more time together as a family, so we joined the Family First Nights Program, not realizing we would love it so much. There was this sense of togetherness in the program. We are all on this boat, sharing this trip together, and everyone had an opportunity to participate."

Amcors Education Series

Students of all ages and backgrounds saw classroom lessons come to life as part of the Center's Amcor Education Series, helping them to critically think and problem solve outside of their schools. In the Center's 20th Anniversary Season, more than 15,600 students, educators and chaperones from approximately 170 schools attended educational performances and workshops. Students from one of the participating schools also had the opportunity to engage in a writing workshop led by Ginger Grace who tied the workshop to her performance in the touring one-woman show, *Emily Dickinson: Her Poetry and Her Life*. Ginger shared, "From the workshops to the show, they had such an intense connection to Emily Dickinson. I think part of that is because of the brevity with which she speaks. In the workshops, they appreciated the succinctness of Emily Dickinson's words."



Sensory-Inclusive Programming

Sensory-inclusive performances are beneficial to a wide audience, including youth, first timers to the theater, and individuals who have developmental or intellectual abilities that produce sensory sensitivities. Many within the community attended the sensory-inclusive performance of Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour Presents *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie* Starring Indigo Blume on March 19, 2023, some introducing a new generation of theatergoers to the performing arts.



Oshkosh resident, Nikki S., a strong arts advocate in the community and supporter of the Center, attended the performance with her family. She was pleased to have a show that both of her children could attend to experience the live performing arts. "I have always wanted to bring my children to shows, but I worried about how they would react in a different environment like the Fox Cities P.A.C. Having sensory-inclusive performances is not only helpful for my son who has autism, but also for my young daughter to help introduce her to what live theater is."

Mamma Mia!, the first Broadway show on the Center's stage: January 21 - February 2, 2003

Performing Arts Series Reimagined into Arts Alive! Series: 2004-05 Season

The Arts Alive! Series is established to bring the world's cultures to the Fox Cities.

We're in the Loop: 2012-13 Season

The Fox Cities P.A.C. became the first Broadway presenting theater in Wisconsin to offer a T-coil hearing loop system. The technology increases access to patrons with hearing loss throughout the Center.

it gets better Brings Important Conversations to the Fox Cities: February 16-21, 2015

it gets better featured members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for community programming related to bullying and promoting a welcoming and safe Fox Valley community.

Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program Launched: 2016-17 Season





Continual Growth and Development 20 Years Later

When patrons attend a live performing arts experience at the Center, it makes a positive financial impact on the region. According to the latest Arts and Economic Prosperity Report from Americans for the Arts, an average of \$17.9 million of economic activity for our community is generated through events held at the Center each season. This economic activity supports local businesses and organizations, enhancing the quality of life in the Fox Cities.

For the past 20 years, more than 1,500 volunteers have given their time to the Fox Cities P.A.C., logging a total of 522,000 hours. In the Center's 20th Anniversary Season, 291 volunteers gave a total of more than 19,000 hours. Of those volunteers, 23 have been here since the very beginning. Mary Ellen F. of Appleton signed up to be a volunteer a year before the Center even opened. "I love live theater, and when the Fox Cities P.A.C. opened, I wanted to be a part of sharing this experience with others. Art is a treat for all our senses. It makes us aware of different types of

music and culture and viewpoints. It encourages diversity and helps us to be more welcoming and accepting of others."

Volunteers have seen firsthand how the Center has grown in the past 20 years. With the addition of spaces including the Partners Lounge and Entrance 21 Luxury Suite, patrons can make the most of their theater going experience. Ticket holders have also noticed how easy it is to manage and scan their tickets, among other things, with the implementation of cutting-edge technology that allows further enjoyment of the arts.

Regardless of the evolution of the Center, some things never change, such as the community's love of the performing arts and the commitment of the staff and volunteers. Another volunteer with a

Supporting the arts as a community...

20-year history to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Susan T. of Oshkosh, shared "I hope the Fox Cities P.A.C. continues relating to people, especially our youth, and continues to offer shows and opportunities for the community to relieve them from stresses of this world." Performing arts experiences leave lasting impressions on all of us. The power of life-changing theater moments is evident through the inspiration we all find when coming together, further instilling empathy and generosity in our hearts.

The Community Changes Lives Through the Arts

There is a common desire shared in our community to make a positive impact, and the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region helps do just that. The foundation strengthens the community by connecting people with what they are passionate about, making a difference for present and future generations.

President and CEO of the Community Foundation, Curt Detjen, has been committed to supporting the community for many years. Four years prior to the Fox Cities P.A.C. being built, Detjen was

working in community development and helped lead a feasibility study regarding the Center. "In the 1990s, downtown Appleton was redefining itself," Detjen shared. "Coming out of community conversations, we realized that it was important to have a place to gather and enrich our lives. The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center was the answer, and it was the best investment we've ever made."

Through the Community Foundation alone, 142 funds have supplied more than 700 grants, reflecting 20+ years of giving to ensure the Fox Cities P.A.C.'s longevity and community impact. The Frank C. Shattuck Fund has been making generous contributions since the very beginning including the Frank C. Shattuck Performing Arts Touch the Hearts of Students (P.A.T.H.S.) Program. Because of their longstanding generosity to the

Center's Keystone Endowment Fund, the Mielke Family Foundation is recognized in connection with the Family First Nights® Program. Detjen commented, "Both families have a long multigenerational history, a great love of the arts, and a desire to invest in the futures of youth. They know lives are being changed through the Fox Cities P.A.C."

Organizations like the Community Foundation have been helping the arts come alive in the Fox Cities for the past 20 years. This commitment has been crucial to the Center's growth, leading to a diversified, vibrant community positively impacted by the arts and culture. Thank you to all of the donors, board members, staff members and volunteers who have and continue to share the Fox Cities P.A.C.'s mission.

for 20 years and beyond.



Getting to Know our English Language Learning Students: January 2018

Theater students and ELL students from Appleton Area School District were paired together in a program called "Getting to Know You" from the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical *The King and I* to discover similarities and celebrate differences through the arts.

GalaPro expands accessibility: October 2018

GalaPro is a revolutionary, innovative app for accessibility and translation, which enhances the audience's experience for live performances.

Center Begins Virtual Delivery of its Mission: Spring 2020

For 17 months, the Center provided virtual mission touchpoints including the weekly *The Show Must Go On Show*, a virtual Amcor Education Series and Teachers' Lounge Events.

Fox Cities P.A.C. Welcomes the Public for Its Second Act: 2021-22 Season

Thanks to the support of the community, the generosity of donors, grantors, and the funding made available through government programs, audiences were welcomed back for *Wicked*, the first touring Broadway production in the 2021-22 Season.

Community gathers for Center's 20th Anniversary Community Open House: April 2023



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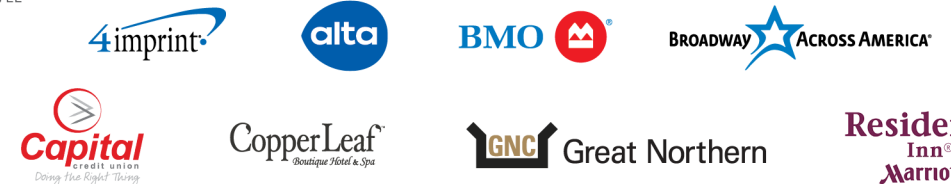
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***Fund within the Greater Green
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^ includes Legacy Intent pledge

Spotlight Series

- **Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience** (Nov. 17, 2022)
- **Who Hijacked My Fairytale? Starring Kelly Swanson** (April 20, 2023)
- **All is Fair in Love... with Nicholas Rodriguez** (June 3, 2023)

National Geographic Live Speaker Series

- **National Geographic Live Presents Nizar Ibrahim, *Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous*** (Jan. 10, 2023)
- **National Geographic Live Presents Brian Skerry, *Secrets of the Whales*** (March 21, 2023)
- **National Geographic Live Presents Bob Poole, *Nature Roars Back*** (April 25, 2023)

Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program

- **Center Stage High School Musical Theater Showcase** (May 6, 2023)

Amcor Education Series

- **Wishing Star Productions, LLC Presents *Grace for President*** (Oct. 26, 2022)
- **Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience** (Nov. 17, 2022)
- **Theater Latté Da's *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*** (Nov. 28, 2022)
- **National Geographic Live Presents Nizar Ibrahim, *Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous*** (Jan. 10, 2023)
- **Ranky Tanky** (Jan. 27, 2023)
- **Bill Blagg's *Magic in Motion*** (Jan. 31, 2023)
- **TheaterWorksUSA's *Pete the Cat's Big Hollywood Adventure*** (Feb. 1, 2023)
- **Ballet Hispánico** (Feb. 8, 2023)
- **Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute *Link Up: The Orchestra Swings*** (March 13, 2023)
- **Bay Area Children's Theatre *Llama Llama Live!*** (March 16, 2023)
- **Kennedy Center for Young Audiences on Tour Presents: *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume*** (March 20, 2023)
- **Emily Dickinson: *Her Poetry and Her Life*** (April 18, 2023)

Kimberly-Clark Broadway Across America – Fox Cities Series

- **Jesus Christ Superstar** (Oct. 18-23, 2022)
- **Disney's *Aladdin*** (Dec. 6-11, 2022)
- **SIX** (Jan. 17-22, 2023)
- **Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*** (Feb. 21-26, 2023)
- **CATS** (March 24-26, 2023)
- **HAMILTON** (May 9-21, 2023)
- **Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations** (June 20-25, 2023)

Boldt Arts Alive! Series

- **Brulé** (Sept. 17, 2022)
- **Theater Latté Da's *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*** (Nov. 27, 2022)
- **Ranky Tanky** (Jan. 28, 2023)
- **Ballet Hispánico** (Feb. 7, 2023)
- **The New York Tenors with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra** (Feb. 11, 2023)
- **The Tamburitians** (Feb. 18, 2023)
- **Ireland With Michael** (March 2, 2023)
- **Kennedy Center for Young Audiences on Tour Presents: *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume*** (March 19, 2023)
- **Cirque Alfonse – *Animal, A Farm Story*** (March 30, 2023)



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