



**MARCUS**  
PERFORMING ARTS  
**CENTER**

**2021/22**  
REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY



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# 2021/22 SEASON - A RETURN TO THE ARTS

The 2021/22 season marked an important milestone in the Marcus Performing Arts Center's history – our return to live performing arts after an 18-month closure. After the longest intermission in our industry's history, MPAC was thrilled to welcome back audiences in the fall of 2021 with the Milwaukee return of HAMILTON in our newly renovated Uihlein Hall. HAMILTON was extremely successful, selling every single available seat during the 16-show run. More than 33,000 people from 42 states gathered at MPAC to enjoy this ground-breaking show and celebrate the return of the performing arts.

This season also marked a major shift in programming for MPAC with the launch of several new performing arts series: Dance, Jazz, and the National Geographic Live Series, as well as several special performances of acclaimed global and genre-busting ensembles. Audience favorites included Terence Blanchard, Ballet Folklórico De México De Amalia Hernandez, David Sanborn, and the Milwaukee return of the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Additionally, we launched our Student Matinee Series, which featured special daytime performances for K-12 students from Black Violin, Hiplet, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Curation of these artists focused on presenting artistic excellence and advancing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion through the performing arts. The launch of these new series enables us to realize our vision as the community gathering place for all and ensures that the artists we present on our stages reflect the rich diversity of our region.

Thank you for joining us this season at the Marcus Performing Arts Center and helping us raise the curtain on a new era of arts programming for our community. The support and generosity of our donors, subscribers, partners, and audiences ensure that the Marcus Performing Arts Center continues to serve our region as a vibrant anchor for arts and culture. Together, we will build on the past, celebrate the present, and transform the future.



*Kendra W. Ingram*  
**Kendra Whitlock Ingram**  
MPAC President & CEO



*Ray L. Wilson*  
**Ray Wilson**  
MPAC Board Chair

# ABOUT US

The Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) serves as a performing arts community gathering space in Southeastern Wisconsin, bringing high-quality arts and cultural programming to the region for over 50 years. As a mission-based non-profit organization located in downtown Milwaukee, MPAC strives to act as an energizing force that connects the community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of performing arts.

Through multiple performance series and community events, MPAC brings a diverse range of celebrated performing arts to the region. Presented series include Broadway at the Marcus Center, MPAC Presents, Dance, Jazz, National Geographic Live, Rainbow Summer, and additional special performances from internationally renowned artists.

MPAC's education, community engagement, and inclusion initiatives provide free experiences both at the Center and within the community that engage young audiences through the performing arts and annually serve students and life-long learners in Milwaukee. Additionally, MPAC serves as home to four major resident companies including Black Arts MKE, First Stage, The Florentine Opera, and Milwaukee Ballet.

MPAC is proud to be a dedicated War Memorial facility, honoring those who bravely served our country. Through various programming, MPAC serves more than 198,000 people annually throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.



# 2021/22 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Marcus Performing Arts Center opens a window to the world through the performing arts. It is where the arts come to life—for current and future generations. It is a space that uplifts all who enter. Whether you donated, volunteered, or attended a performance this season, we are grateful for your role in our arts community. Thank you for bringing world-class artistic experiences to life in Milwaukee at the Marcus Center this season!



## A NEWLY RENOVATED THEATER

Taking advantage of the extended pandemic intermission, MPAC completed a \$4 million renovation to Uihlein Hall, our largest theater, by installing new seats and a new seating configuration utilizing multiple aisles with enhanced ADA accommodations. Special thank you to our Anonymous donor and Donald & Donna Baumgartner for making this renovation possible!

## BROADWAY MAKES ITS RETURN WITH HAMILTON

After an 18-month closure, MPAC re-opened with HAMILTON in October. The sold-out show generated over \$13.2 million dollars of economic impact for Milwaukee.



## ALL NEW ARTS & CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

MPAC launched new arts and cultural programming including our Jazz, Dance, and National Geographic Live series. More than 50% of the artists represented BIPOC voices, ensuring the artists presented on our stage reflect the voices of our community.



## THE RETURN OF ALVIN AILEY

In April, MPAC welcomed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, back to Milwaukee for the first time in 20 years.



## LAUNCH OF OUR STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

A new Student Matinee Series, featuring special daytime performances from Black Violin, Hiplet, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo, served over 5,000 youth in our region.



## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BASH

On June 17, 500 guests celebrated the culmination of the Marcus Performing Arts Center's successful 2021/22 season at the 17th Annual BASH. Guests enjoyed an incredible performance from Broadway favorite Megan Hilty with special guest performers from Milwaukee High School of the Arts and Ronald Reagan High School. Over \$270,000 was raised in support of our mission-based programs.



# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PERFORMING ARTISTS AND ARTS AUDIENCES

In support of our vision to be a world-class gathering place for all, MPAC has a robust arts education program. These programs encompass a wide variety of activities that engage learners at all levels and help to develop arts participants and audiences of the future.

Our education program celebrates the diversity of the performers we present each season and extends engagement throughout our community to those that face economic or transportation barriers. This season we served more than 15,000 youth and their families through our arts education activities.



## ARTIST RESIDENCIES & MASTERCLASSES

Each season, MPAC provides opportunities for students and pre-professional artists to meet and work with internationally-renowned artists presented on our stages. In the 2021/22 season, participants engaged in unique learning experiences with performing artists from the companies of HAMILTON, Turtle Island Quartet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pilobolus, Ballet Folklórico De México De Amalia Hernandez, and Hiplet.

## ARTSCONNECT

The ArtsConnect program connects Milwaukee youth to the performing arts industry through year-round workshops and hands-on experiences. This season's ArtsConnect program culminated with the opportunity for eight high school students to perform with Broadway star Megan Hilty onstage at our annual BASH.



## STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

In addition to community engagement activities, many of the artists featured on our season also performed a special 60-minute daytime performance for K-12 students. Black Violin, Hiplet, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo were featured on the inaugural season of our Student Matinee Series.



## CIVIC CELEBRATIONS

MPAC is home to a variety of free civic and cultural events. Key events this season included the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration and the 4th Annual César E. Chávez Birthday Celebration. These annual events featured performances from local artists and highlighted the youth in our community through art, speech, and writing contests.



# MPAC'S CULTURAL AMBASSADOR



## DONALD DRIVER JOINS THE MARCUS CENTER FAMILY

In the 2021/22 season, the Marcus Performing Arts Center debuted a new partnership with Donald Driver as the first Cultural Ambassador in our organization's history. The four-year partnership with Donald Driver as a Cultural Ambassador will promote the power of the arts, culture, and community engagement by making the performing arts more accessible to underserved youth, families, and communities of color throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

Through the partnership, Driver will work with the Marcus Performing Arts Center to create intersections between the performing arts and the community through engaging educational content developed with artists during the MPAC Presents season.

In his first year as MPAC Cultural Ambassador, Driver sat down with diverse leaders in the performing arts industry to talk triumphs, trials, hurdles, and successes in the Artists Unscripted Series.

Driver joined Terence Blanchard and Hipler for the first installments of the Artists Unscripted Series to discuss career advice for young artists and breaking down stereotypes in the performing arts.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO REDI

For nearly 20 years, MPAC has been committed to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) on and off the stage. Strengthening this commitment, we developed our REDI Action Plan to create a more racially representative and equitable culture at the Marcus Center.

MPAC announced REDI strategic goals in three key areas – Representation, Inclusion, and Investment – that focus on building bridges between diverse members of the community through high-quality arts and entertainment that reflects the Milwaukee Community.



## REPRESENTATION

MPAC's artists, leadership, board, staff, and volunteers reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of Milwaukee County.

## INCLUSION

MPAC will create, sustain, and promote a culture of belonging across the organization.

## INVESTMENT

MPAC's annual operating budget will include financial investment in REDI initiatives across the organization.

To learn about our metric-based action steps under each pillar, please visit [www.marcuscenter.org/REDI](http://www.marcuscenter.org/REDI)



# RESIDENT COMPANIES

In addition to offering our own arts and cultural programming for the community, the Marcus Performing Arts Center serves as the home for four resident companies who present many of their Milwaukee performances at the Marcus Center: Black Arts MKE, First Stage, The Florentine Opera, and Milwaukee Ballet.



## BLACK ARTS MKE

Black Arts MKE (BAMKE)'s mission is to increase the availability and quality of African American arts and culture. In the 2021/22 season, BAMKE presented several performances at MPAC: the 6th Annual *Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes, a staged reading of Sheri Williams Pannell's *Milwaukee Voices of Gun Violence*, the Black History Month Matinees, and Chris Crain's *Beautiful You, Beautiful Me*. Additionally, over 1300 youth participated in BAMKE's annual Youth Theatre Matinee Series, Youth Performing Arts Camp, and I AM. MASTERCLASS series at the Marcus Center.

## FIRST STAGE

As a national leader in the Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA/USA) field, First Stage touches hearts, engages minds, and transforms lives by creating extraordinary theater experiences for young people and families through Professional Theater Productions, Theater Academy Training, and Theater in Education Programming. During the 2021/2022 season, First Stage presented the following theater productions in the Marcus Performing Arts Center's Todd Wehr Theater: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham—1963*, *The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors*, and the world premiere of *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*.

## THE FLORENTINE OPERA

The Florentine Opera is Wisconsin's oldest professional performing arts organization, producing a full range of operatic works reflecting the highest musical and theatrical standards. During their 88th season, The Florentine Opera presented several works at the Marcus Performing Arts Center: Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Viardot's *Cinderella* paired with Ravel's *The Child and the Enchantments*, and Zarzuela: *Luisa Fernanda*.

## MILWAUKEE BALLET

Founded in 1970, Milwaukee Ballet strives to inspire its audiences to think within and beyond traditional ballet through the presentation of quality performances and the implementation of education opportunities. The 2021/22 Season of Inspiration featured Michael Pink's *Beauty and the Beast* alongside mixed repertory programs of contemporary dance from award-winning choreographers: *Connect* and *PUSH*. The season also included Milwaukee's beloved holiday tradition: *The Nutcracker*.

# MPAC BY THE NUMBERS

**200K+** ANNUAL ATTENDEES



**550+**

ARTISTS PRESENTED ON OUR STAGES



**120**

PERFORMANCES IN THE 2021/22 MPAC SEASON

**420+**  
ANNUAL  
EVENTS



**50+**  
YEARS SERVING  
OUR COMMUNITY



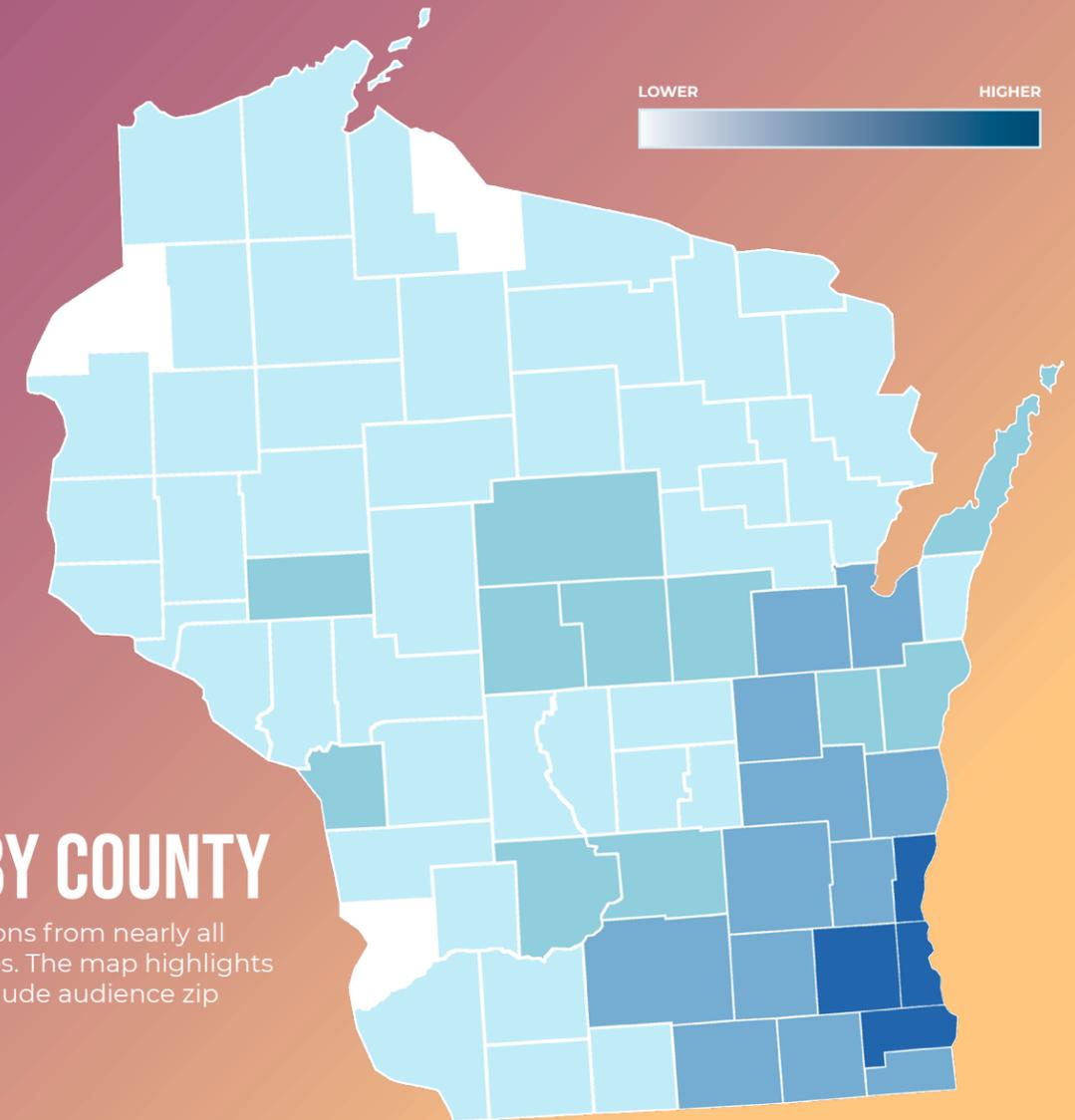
**12K+**  
HOURS OF  
VOLUNTEERISM  
ANNUALLY



**10K+**  
YOUTH  
SERVED  
ANNUALLY



**7.5K+**  
ANNUAL  
ARTS  
SUBSCRIBERS



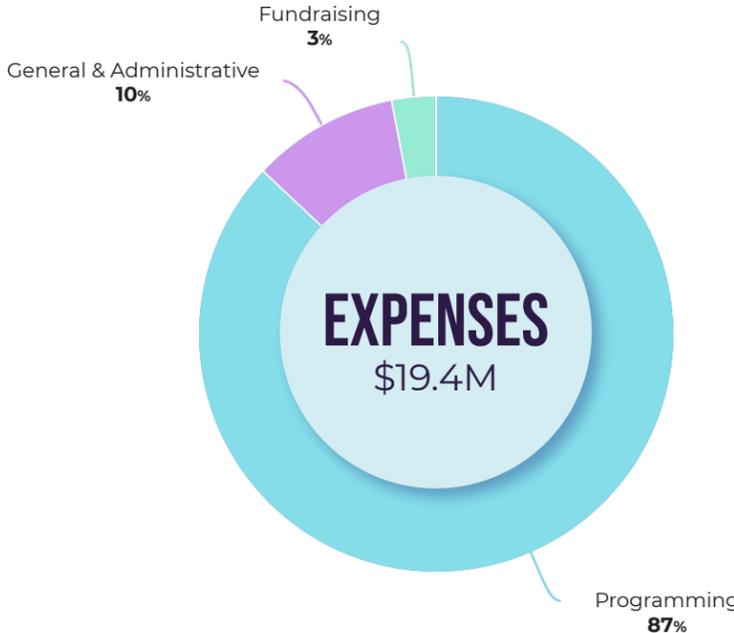
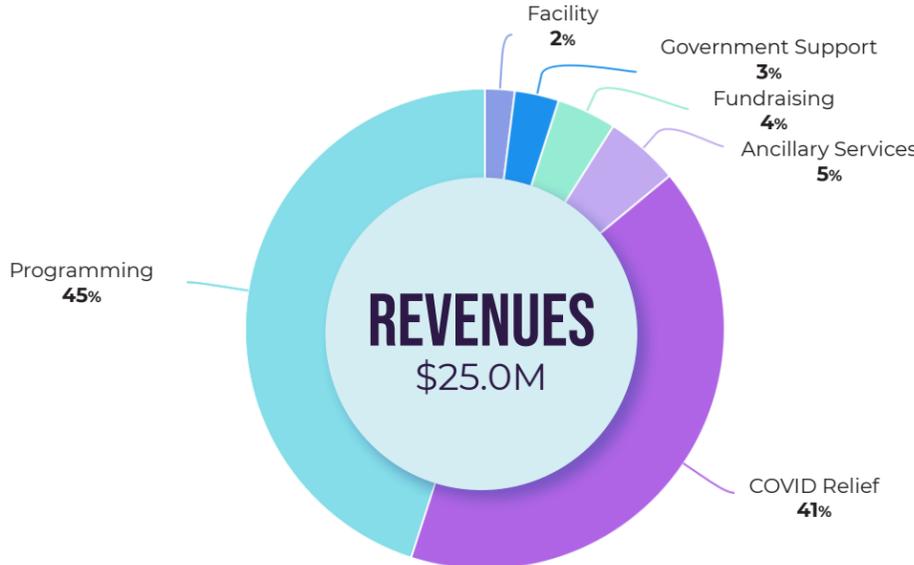
## IMPACT BY COUNTY

MPAC attracts patrons from nearly all Wisconsin's counties. The map highlights ticket sales that include audience zip code data.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Like so many in the performing arts industry, MPAC's operating budget was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past few years. MPAC's ability to weather the financial storm of the pandemic was thanks to our donors, subscribers, audiences, and partners.

Additionally, significant contributions from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and other COVID-related relief funding provided true lifelines for the performing arts industry and aided our re-opening after the most challenging time in our 50-year history.



# 2021/22 SEASON SPONSORS

MPAC is incredibly grateful to the following partners for their generous commitment and investment in our mission.



The Marcus Performing Arts Center is supported in part by grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board and Milwaukee Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Arts Midwest. Marcus Performing Arts Center is a proud affiliate of United Performing Arts Fund.



## MPAC ANNUAL DONORS

We are so grateful to all the donors who have made a pledge or gift(s) to the Marcus Performing Arts Center. Thank you for supporting our mission to connect our community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of live performing arts.

The following list represents organizations and individuals who have made a cumulative contribution of \$250 or more between March 1, 2021, and October 18, 2022.

To join our family of donors and make your gift today, visit [www.marcuscenter.org/GIVE](http://www.marcuscenter.org/GIVE)

### LUMINARY • \$50,000+

Bader Philanthropies, Inc.  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Johnson Financial Group  
Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel  
Ticketmaster LLC

### ANCHOR • \$25,000+

The Ambassador Hotel  
Fields Auto Group  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation -  
MKE Responds Facebook Fund  
MPS Partnership for the Arts & Humanities  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation

### LEADER • \$10,000+

Anon Charitable Trust  
Donald and Donna Baumgartner  
BMO Harris Bank  
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Broadway Across America  
CG Schmidt  
Tina Eickermann  
Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin

Jacqueline Herd-Barber and Michael Barber  
Sean and Brandi Mars  
Meier Foundation  
Milwaukee Business Journal  
PepsiCo  
Sazama's Hospitality Group  
THINKLimo

United Performing Arts Fund  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Ray and Kelly Wilson  
Wisconsin Arts Board

### SUSTAINER • \$5,000+

CBRE, Inc.  
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Milwaukee County Transit System  
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Cindi and Damani Short  
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### PRODUCER • \$2,500+

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Kathy-Ann Edwards and  
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Laura and Tom Gough

Gruber Law Offices  
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George Hoffman  
Jay and Diana Hughes  
Huntington Bank  
Johnson Controls  
KEI Landscaping  
David and Melina Marcus  
Michelle Mattson and Matt  
Sirinek  
Milwaukee County CAMPAC  
MGIC  
Milwaukee Bucks  
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Foundation  
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Janan and Waleed Najeeb  
Laurie Bergum Navarro  
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Maxine White

### AMBASSADOR • \$1,000+

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James and Lisa Bayer  
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Chad and Kimara Ellefson  
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GIBB  
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### STEWARDSHIP • \$500+

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Jennifer Pundsack  
Patrick and Tracy Rath  
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Jim Sheeley  
John Silseth  
Michelle Sirinek  
Luz Sosa  
Ranae Stavish  
Amy B. Stein  
Danny and Lynne Thomas  
Sara Verbsky  
Russell and Michelle Ward  
Matt and Jackie Wieck  
Dawn Williams  
Mary Lou Young

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Sheldon Wasserman  
The Wilgenbusch Family  
Portia Young  
Megan Zabkowitz  
Tylor Zygarlicke

### TRIBUTE GIVING

*In memory of Karen Destree  
from Anonymous*  
*In memory of Rebecca "Becky" Frink  
from Anonymous*  
*In memory of Art & Lyn Murawski  
from Nadine A. Flemming*  
*In loving memory of my wife  
Lorraine O'Malley  
from George Banda*  
*In memory of Kimberly Radtke  
from Kelly Radtke*  
*In memory of Pat Spira  
from Jeff and Deb Zaluda*  
*In honor of Ailie Snyder  
from Fiona Nicolaisen*  
*In memory of Donald Vogel  
from Audrey and Norman McGarvie*

Please contact us at  
414-755-3974 for corrections.

# COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

The Marcus Performing Arts Center is proud to partner with a variety of regional partners on our annual performance series, community engagement & inclusion programs, and civic events. Partners are selected based on their ability to complement our racial equity, diversity, and inclusion goals.

Thank you to our partners in our 2021/22 season!

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
- Bruce-Guadalupe Community School
- Children's Wisconsin
- Divine Savior Holy Angels High School
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
- Froedtert Health
- Golda Meir School
- Hmong American Friendship Academy
- Holy Redeemer Christian Academy
- In the Dance Café
- Latino Arts
- LocoMotion Dance Company
- Mexican Consulate of Milwaukee
- Mexican Fiesta
- Milwaukee County Transit System
- Milwaukee High School of the Arts
- Milwaukee Jazz Institute
- Milwaukee Public Schools
- Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
- MPS Foundation
- Professional Dimensions
- Ronald Reagan High School
- Rufus King International High School
- Salvation Army
- Signature Dance Company
- St. Ann Center
- St. Camillus
- St. Joan Antida High School
- St. Rose Youth & Family Center
- TRUE Skool, Inc.
- UMOs
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts
- Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce



# MARCUS CENTER STAFF & ADMINISTRATION

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 Lory Bowman – VP of Marketing & Communications  
 Katie Dillow – VP of Finance & Administration  
 Jared Duymovic – VP of Programming & Engagement  
 Ken Harris – VP of Venue Operations  
 Megan Huse – VP of Development  
 Aixa Stelter – Executive Assistant

## DEVELOPMENT

Jennifer Han – Senior Manager Development & Media Relations  
 Chelsie Septer – Development Associate

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Lori Muench – Senior Director of Finance  
 Mary Murphy – Senior Accountant  
 Kyle Grokowsky – Accounting Associate

Magda Hoffman – Sr. Human Resources Director  
 Ana Castillo – Human Resources Generalist

Praveen Krishnamurti – Director of IT  
 J.F. Jolly – IT Associate

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 Anthony D. Smith – Director of Community Partnerships  
 Mallori Taylor – Creative Manager  
 Michaela Beal – Digital Marketing Associate

James Doyle – Director of Ticketing Services  
 Chris Ouchie – Ticketing Services Manager  
 J. F. Jolly – Event Ticketing Supervisor  
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 Joanne Bartel – Box Office Clerk  
 Margaret Garro – Box Office Clerk  
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 Keyona Jones – Box Office Clerk  
 Annette Kirchen – Box Office Clerk  
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 Sara Truex – Box Office Clerk  
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 Melissa Wolfe – Box Office Clerk  
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## PROGRAMMING & ENGAGEMENT

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 Nadia Olker – Director of Venue Rentals  
 Leah Townsend – Community Education & Engagement Specialist  
 Mia Vilanova – Programming & Rental Specialist

## VENUE OPERATIONS

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 Alex Cook – House Manager  
 Greg Davis – House Manager  
 Shayla Finley – House Manager  
 Greta Lowry – House Manager  
 Lisa Marion-Howard – House Manager  
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 William McClaren – Staff Stagehand  
 Nick Symes – Staff Stagehand  
 James Cherry – Director of Facility Engineering  
 James Dauer – Lead Engineer  
 Michael Weber – Assistant Lead Engineer  
 Daniel Collins – Engineer I  
 Alex Piedra – Engineer I  
 David Sopinski – Electrician  
 Jim Ross – Engineer III  
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 Sao Vang – Engineer I

**Venue Security:** BEST Crowd Management  
**Parking Management:** Interstate Parking

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Sargento



## OUR MISSION

The Marcus Performing Arts Center acts as an energizing force that connects our community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of live performing arts.

## OUR VISION

The Marcus Performing Arts Center is the region's world-class gathering place for all.



The Marcus Performing Arts Center's strong financial management and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most trusted nonprofit evaluator.

**PHOTO CREDITS**

Cover - Lindsay Stayton, Michaela Beal, Mallori Taylor | Pg 6 - HAMILTON Angelica National Tour (C) Joan Marcus | Pg 7 - Alvin Ailey photo by Dario Calmese, Lindsay Stayton  
Pg 8 - Mallori Taylor, Lindsay Stayton | Pg 9 - Lindsay Stayton, Student Art Contest winners Zachariah Lara and Ner Way Ber Moo | Pg 10 - Majic Productions, Mallori Taylor, Lindsay Stayton  
Pg 11 - Lindsay Stayton, Mallori Taylor | Pg 12 - Annia Hidalgo and Patrick Howell. Photo by Mark Frohna | Pg 18 - Lindsay Stayton | Pg 20 - Lindsay Stayton, Mallori Taylor  
Pg 23 - Lindsay Stayton, Michaela Beal | Back Cover - Michaela Beal



# CONTACT

## **Marcus Performing Arts Center**

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Milwaukee, WI 53202

MarcusCenter.org  
414.273.7206

Explore more:



SCAN ME