

# Annual Report

A Season in Review for Omaha Theater Company and Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center Foundation

# Numbers Served in 2016-17



Public Show Attendance: **58,075** 



Pre-K Show Attendance: **2,264** 



Memberships:

3174 including

**208** underwritten by the Bob & Evelyn Veach Foundation



School Field Trips:

24,777



Workshops:

1,126



Classes and Camps:

1,769

Approximately **65** students were enrolled in classes for children with special needs.



Teens 'N' Theater:

Enriching the lives of children and their families through live theater and arts education.

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# **Letter from the Director**

Your support for The Rose changes lives. It emboldens young people across the region to find and utilize their unique voices to change the world. This fiscal year began with our production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, which was the first professional production in America to feature an actor of color in a historically Caucasian Disney protagonist role. For at least the fifth straight season, our productions have had equal numbers of male and female lead characters. We also continue to lead the field in commissioning world premiere plays written by female playwrights.

This is all to say, The Rose's commitment to inclusion manifests in every facet of our work. Children notice. They feel The Rose is a place where they are seen and fully heard, in the classroom as well as onstage. This year, we joined an initiative to have all of our productions audio described for individuals with low vision. We also deepened our commitment to students on the autism spectrum and their families, by moving towards sensory-friendly performances of certain mainstage shows. In the classroom, we continue to grow the number of children with special needs participating in drama, dance and music instruction. We do all of this regardless of financial need.

The full inclusion of our community's children represents a major opportunity to build a metro area that is peaceful, creative, and literate. The Rose Theater is at the center of this activity, a place where empathy and creativity take center stage. We are grateful and humbled to share news of the year that was, and we are excited to share the future with you and our city's children.

Matthew Gutschick

Artistic Director

(402) 502-4618

http://www.rosetheater.org/

matt Statahuh



# **Story**

The Rose serves thousands of students each year through live performances, workshops, classes and camps. Here are two from students involved in summer classes and camps.

"The Rose has been so wonderful. The environment is so safe and accepting and loving and I can't believe that a place like it could exist. I never thought I'd find a place that doesn't tolerate hate and actually cares about the kids in it. I wake up every day throughout the school year dreading the day ahead--but during the summer, I wake up and think 'I can't wait to get there.' The people there are my family and they love me regardless of my identity and personality. Every day I'm not there, I desperately want to be there and think 'today may be a bad day, but I still have my theater family and they are more than enough.' There are no words to describe how great the theater is and the people in it."

-DRAMA at The Rose student

"To describe what The Rose Theater means to me is an impossible task. There is no way to put into words how much being at The Rose has changed me. The staff and fellow theater students have become a second family for me -- there are people that I've met that I can't imagine my life without. It has become my safe haven. The Rose has even felt more like home, at times, than the house I am being raised in. When I'm feeling down, being mistreated by my friends, searching for a reason to get out of bed, I think of all of my experiences at The Rose... The shows, the camps, the classes that continue to teach me the skills I'll use both on and offstage... I feel loved, needed, worthy and just more than enough every time I walk through those doors."

-DRAMA at The Rose student



# **Financial Statement**

COMBINED STAT	EMENT OF FINANCIAL POS	SITION - MAY 31, 2016	
	OMAHA THEATER	ROSE BLUMKIN	
ASSETS	COMPANY	PAC FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,437,023	\$297,699	\$1,734,72
Investments	\$293,107	\$18,359,174	\$18,652,28
Unconditional promises to give:			
Unrestricted	\$26,979		\$26,97
Temporarily restricted	\$266,374		\$266,37
Total unconditional promises	\$293,353		\$293,35
Assets restricted for property/equipment purchase:			
Intangible Assets - Net	\$32,249		\$32,24
Accounts receivable	\$19,579		\$19,57
Prepaid expenses	\$175,246		\$175,24
Property and equipment	\$931,376	\$8,291,985	\$9,223,36
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,181,933	\$26,948,858	\$30,130,79
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$295,148	\$41,145	\$336,29
Deferred income	\$369,883		\$369,88
Total liabilities	\$665,031	\$41,145	\$706,17
Net assets			
Unrestricted	\$1,776,489	\$26,907,503	\$28,683,99
Temporarily restricted	\$715,413	\$210	\$715,62
Permanently restricted	\$25,000		\$25,00
Total net assets	\$2,516,902	\$2,907,503	\$29,424,61
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$3,181,933	\$26,948,858	\$30,130,79
INCOM	IE AND EXPENDITURE PER	CENTAGES	
EARNED INCOME	\$1,220,932	EXPENSES	\$3,983,23
Production	21%	Production	30%
Education	17%	Education	24%
Miscellaneous	2%	Administration	25%
JNEARNED INCOME	\$1,979,625	Facility	119
Foundations & Individuals	44%	Marketing & Fundrasing	89
	5%	_	39
Corporate		Miscellaneous	37
Rose Guild	6%		
Government Grants	5%		

Presented are the most recently audited figures. Final audited figures for the 2016-17 season will be available in the fall of 2017.

# **Board of Trustees**

# Directors:

Troy Romero President

Nicki Cleveland President-Elect

Cherie Lytle

VP of Marketing/

Development

Tiffany Paben VP of Finance Dr. Louisa Foster

Production/Education

Bill Stott

Secretary/By-Laws

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Matt Gutschick

Artistic Director

Julie Walker

Managing Director

Liz Akert

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**Brook Hudson** 

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Anna Castner Wightman

Debora Wisneski

Emily Andres

Denise Chapman

Kanyon Chism

Tammy Korgie

Leia Mendoza

Curt Witzenburg

Wendi Kroeger

# **The Rose Guild**

# Officers:

Wendi Kroeger President

Chaley Chandler President-Elect

Ashley Gloystein VP of Community

Jen Koom

VP of Fundraising

Heather Vanourney

VP of Membership

Kareen Hickman

VP of Technology

Ellie Grace Secretary

Janelle Kupka Treasurer Katie Allebone

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Beth Breunsbach

Erica Bryant

Kelly Buscher

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Brittany Dabestani

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Laura Essay

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Ellie Grace Marla Grose Christina Groteluschen

Andrea Gutta

Mary Lynn Hallett

Cari Harris

Amy Henderson

Kareen Hickman

Sarah Hinsley

Sara Huse

Andee Johnson

Taylor Kerschke

Cassie Kohl

Jennifer Koom

Wendi Kroeger

Janelle Kupka

Amanda LaPuzza

Gina McDevitt

Ashley McMahon

Wendy Moore

Kimberly Nolan

Kris Patton

Paige Ritter

Brenda Rosenblatt

Deyna Rouse

Christine Schulte

Andee Scioli

Lindsey Semrad

Jessica Shefsky

Colette Siner

Becca Sudbeck

Kendra Swanson

Katie Triplett

radio impiott

Cindy Vaccaro

Heather Vanourney

Ashlee Young



"Thank you to
The Rose Guild
for its donation
of \$180,000!"

# The Rose Staff

Artistic Director - Matthew Gutschick Managing Director - Julie Walker

# **Production Staff**

Production Director - Erin Solemsaas

Technical Director - Greg Rishoi

Costume & Make-Up Director - Sherri Geerdes

Costume Shop Foreman - Erin Bragg

Properties Master - Devon Denn-Young

Director of Lighting & Sound - Craig S. Moxon

Assoc. Director of Lighting & Sound - Laura Renae Hensley

Master Carpenter - Jackson Curtright

Charge Scenic Artist - Lauren Crabtree

Resident Stage Manager - Ashleigh-Dawn Kreigh-Fleming

Year-Long Technical Interns – Megan Bolander, Tyler Danhaus, Jordan Jones, Rose Mormino

# **Artistic Staff**

Acting Company – Kevin Ehrhart, Brian Guehring, Stephanie Jacobson, Michael Miller, Ashley Laverty

Playwright in Residence - Brian Guehring

Literary Manager - Michael Miller

### **Education Staff**

Education Director - Brian Guehring

Broadway at The Rose Director - Sue Gillespie Booton

Education Coordinator - Deprecia Wright

Youth Productions Director - Stephanie Jacobson

Artistic Associate – Director of Outbound Programming – Tyrone Beasley

Teaching Artists – Kevin Ehrhart, Stephanie Jacobson, Michael Miller, Ashley Laverty

Contract Teaching Artists – Katy Kepler, Colleen Kilcoyne, Kimberly Stone

Broadway at The Rose Instructors – Sue Gillespie Booton, Rachel Busse, Ashley Durst, Claire Goodwillie, Natasha Grimm, Katlin Leonard, Nikki McMullen, Ashley Reabe, Doran Schmidt, Katrinka Stayton, Laurelin Sterns, Deprecia Wright

Teaching Fellows – Hayley Greenstreet, Robyn Helwig, Chloe Langford, Autumn Simpson

High School Interns – Jope Awomolo, Claire Booton, Miriam Cortes, Sarah Eriksen, Gigi Hausman, Scout Hughes, Noah Jeffrey, Matthew Kischer, Anissa Romero, Hamn Weber

# Administrative Staff

Finance Director - Janelle Kupka

Accounting Assistant - Terri Deaver

Facilities Director - Scott Kupka

Facilities Staff - Hubert Clark, Michelle Clark

Chief Information Officer - Kevin Ehrhart

Patron/Member Services Coordinator - Mandy Aleksiak

Groups/Schools Services Coordinator - Lindy Glenn

Marketing Director - Kori Radloff

Marketing Associate - Alex Myhre

Development Consultant - Vic Gutman

Development Specialist - Lisa Winton

Grants Manager - Mary Hubl

House Manager/Box Office Manager - Scott Pace

Box Office Assistants - Amy Ellefson, Josh Mullady,

Paige Pace, Jen Lempke, Kelsey Ribordy



# 2016-17 Season Shows

# **Goodnight Moon**

Dates: September 2-18, 2016 Director: Susann Suprenant Public Attendance: 8,259

**School Field Trip Attendance: 546** 

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Wells Fargo, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"Our family loved it! This was our first time to the Rose Theater and we couldn't be happier that we got a membership."

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER



Dates: September 30 - October 16, 2016

Director: Fran Sillau

Public Attendance: 10,151

School Field Trip Attendance: 4,995

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"The performance was amazing. The energy of all of the actors and actresses made a lasting impression of fun and entertainment. Loved it!"

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

# The Jungle Book

Dates: October 28 - November 13, 2016

**Director:** John Hardy **Public Attendance:** 7,766

School Field Trip Attendance: 3,688

**Sponsors:** Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Security National Bank, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"Great Job! Wonderful acting. Beautiful scenery and props. We had a great time."

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER













# **Prancer**

Dates: November 25 - December 18, 2016

**Director:** Matthew Gutschick **Public Attendance:** 6,246

School Field Trip Attendance: 1,226

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Kid Cuisine, Hy-Vee, Nebraska Life Magazine, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"Prancer, the quiet, poignant and beautifully produced new play at The Rose, will sneak up on you... Expect this show to stay with you for the rest of the holiday season."

-OMAHA WORLD-HERALD REVIEW

# The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs

Dates: January 27 - February 12, 2017

**Director:** Kevin Ehrhart **Public Attendance:** 8,169

School Field Trip Attendance: 5,999

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Baird Holm, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"It was a wonderful show. All the children with me were highly engaged. Even my son who has a hard time staying focused sat and watched the entire time!"

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

# **Huck Finn**

Dates: Feburary 24 - March 12, 2017

**Director:** Tyrone Beasley **Public Attendance:** 5,134

School Field Trip Attendance: 3,104

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Kiewit Corporation, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Huck Finn performance. . . It was impressive how much was done with so few cast and crew."

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

# Harold and the Purple Crayon

Dates: March 24 - April 9, 2017 Director: Matt Gutschick Public Attendance: 6,669

School Field Trip Attendance: 3,547

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, First National Bank, Nebraska

Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"The show felt light and was beautiful. I brought my 3 1/2 year old for the first time and he was mesmerized. Simply wonderful!"

-THE READER REVIEW

# Stellaluna & Other Tales

Dates: April 21 - May 7, 2017 Director: Michael Miller Public Attendance: 5,681

School Field Trip Attendance: 5,644

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Runza, Nebraska Arts Council. Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"I watched the expressions of my granddaughters and they were mesmerized throughout the show. I love how Rose productions bring these stories to life for children."

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

### **Peter Pan**

Dates: June 2-18, 2017 Director: Amy Lane Public Attendance: 7,181

Sponsors: Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Mutual of Omaha, Whitmore Charitable Trust, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

"It was an awesome production. My daughter was in awe the whole time."

-ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

### Mouse on the Move

Dates: October 15 - November 6, 2016

**Director:** Michael Miller **Public Attendance:** 854

School Field Trip Attendance: 930 Sponsors: The Vetter Foundation

# **Thumbelina**

Dates: January 14 - February 5, 2017

**Director:** Stephanie Jacobson **Public Attendance:** 1,410

School Field Trip Attendance: 976 Sponsors: The Vetter Foundation



# **Daniel Beaty Projects**



The Rose and Director of Outbound Programming Tyrone Beasley once again teamed with renowned actor, writer, director and activist Daniel Beaty to create two performance pieces that examine the complex issues of teen pregnancy and youth incarceration. Daniel led workshops with those personally affected by these issues and then crafted scripts from the actual words of the participants. Many taking part in the workshops say it is the first time they feel their thoughts, feelings and experiences are being heard and noticed.

**Changed:** A Play About Teen Pregnancy in Omaha Nebraska, presented the true stories of young people in the Omaha community whose lives have been impacted by teen pregnancy. The play was performed by professional actors at The Rose's Hitchcock Theater, at Girls Inc. and Boys & Girls Clubs.

In the Middle of Nowhere focused on issues of youth incarceration and the juvenile justice system. In addition to being performed at the Hitchcock, the play also toured to the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) where one of the workshops was held. Seeing their stories come alive on stage and hearing their own words being spoken by professional actors was a powerful experience for the inmates and NCYF officials have said the performance is still talked about months later. The Rose is now conducting an eight-week theater workshop at the facility that will culminate in a performance by the participants.

Both projects were also subjects of two video documentaries that are now available on The Rose website so that they can reach a wider audience.

Funding Provided By:



# **Classes & Programs**



# DRAMA at The Rose

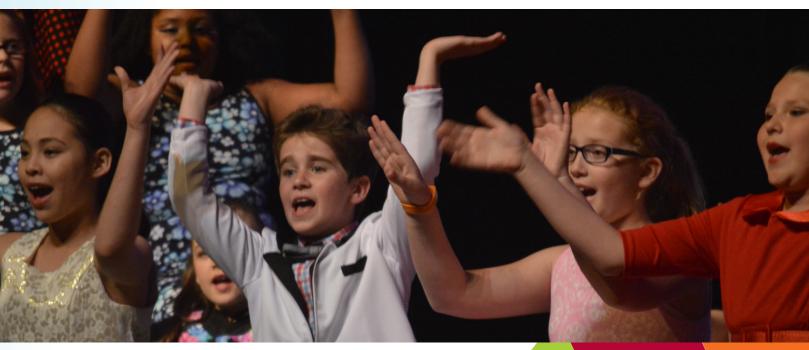
DRAMA at The Rose classes promote creativity and provide students with an environment to explore their talent and imagination. In DRAMA classes, young people learn how to use their bodies to tell a story, new ways to use their voice, how to stretch their imagination, all while having fun in a safe, structured environment. Classes include acting, directing, playwriting, improv, stagecraft, puppetry, filmmaking and more.

### **BROADWAY** at The Rose

Introduced in 2011, BROADWAY at The Rose is a complete musical theater, voice, acting and dance training program for students who just want to perform. In BROADWAY classes, young people perfect their skills and prepare to take the stage at school, in community productions, or even a play at The Rose. Classes culminated with a spring concert and workshops with national guest artists. Auditions and competitions were offered throughout the year.

# Classes for Children with Special Needs

The Rose is a leader in the field of drama and dance instruction for children with special needs. Last season, The Rose served 65 students through its course offerings for children with autism, hearing impairments and developmental delays.



# **Brigade & Transcendtrix Dance Lab**

# The Rose Brigade

BROADWAY at The Rose cast 52 students to perform as members of its Jr. and Sr. Rose Brigade. Each company performed pre-shows before select Rose main stage performances. The Rose Brigade performed at the Junior Theater Festival in Sacramento, CA where our "Beauty and the Beast" Jr. Rose Brigade cast received an Outstanding Performance Award and the Sr. Rose Brigade won Excellence In Acting for their performance of Seussical. Several students won individual awards, including Phoenix Nehls, Elliot Kerkhofs, Tylie Tinglehoff and Payton Johnson, who received the Junior Theater Festival All Star award. Olivia Hess, Kami Upah and Nora Coffey were chosen to appear in the MTI DVD series.

# Transcendtrix Dance Lab

Transcendtrix Dance Lab (TDL) is The Rose's competitive dance team comprised of 32 students who made up three companies: mini/petite (ages 5-8), junior (ages 9-12), and senior (ages 13-18). The companies competed at several competitions and went to the national competition in Sandusky, Ohio. Every age group won a Top 10 award at every competition attended.

# Teens 'N' Theater

The Intern Project: Playscape
September 8, 10 & 11

Pride Players: Project 19

February 9, 11 & 12

Broken Mirror #17

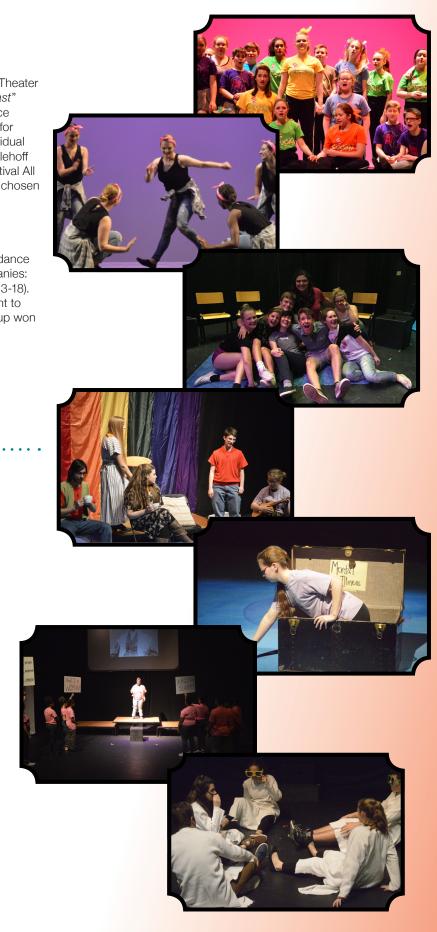
March 9, 11 & 12

Young, Gifted & Black

April 27, 29 & 30

22nd Annual Young Playwrights Festival

May 4, 6 & 7



# Field Trips & Outreach



# School Shows & Workshops

Underwriting from community supporters made it possible for The Rose to offer field trip performances at a substantially reduced rate that starts at only \$2.25 for students who qualified for their school's free lunch program. As as result, 30,260 students were able to attend one of The Rose's ten 2016-17 school field trip shows.

In addition to field trip shows, more than a thousand curriculum-based workshops were offered and more than 120 performances of touring shows such as *The Bully Show, Nebraskaland!*, and *Farmer Brown's Birthday Surprise* were produced for students throughout the season.

# **Every Single Child**

Every Single Child offers metro-area students in Pre-K through eighth grade a new and unique curriculum-based drama experience each year. During the 2016-17 season, 27,368 students from 81 schools participated in the program. Many underfunded schools were able to make the program available to their students for free, thanks to underwriting from community supporters.



# 2016-17 Season Donors

This list reflects donors whose gifts were received June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. Gifts received after May 31, 2017 will be acknowledged in next season's annual report.

### \$50,000+

Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund

Holland Foundation

Peter Kiewit Foundation

The Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center Foundation

The Rose Theater Guild

Sherwood Foundation

### \$10,000-\$49,999

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Allison Balus

Alicia & Mike

Battershell
Patrick Beasley

Debbie & Glen

Bennett
Francie Berens in

honor of John Lloyd Yo<mark>ung</mark>

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Julie & Larry Labens Bruce Little Pat Little Valerie Locke Eva & Mike Loeb Jane & Brian Lowes Heidi & Tom Macy Stacy Maddux James Martin Mele Mason Barbara & Jeffrey Miller Kathy & Monty Montagne Heather Morehouse Heather Morgan Denise Morozov Elizabeth Murphy Kimberly Nolan Denise O'Brien Gloria Olson Kathryn Onorato Kate Oshima Jan Otter Shirley Pelican Reverend Roland Peschel Jennifer & Mike Peterson Kathy & Michael Peterson Susan & Michael Pinquoch Erika Povondra Jo & Ed Rasmussen Charlene Recker Jennifer Richardson Troy Romero Judy Roots Julie & Steven Sacks Corinne & Alden Schmitz Mary Schrader Mark Schultze Shilo Scott Margaret Semin

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# **Patron Members**

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# **Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!**

The value of sponsors and underwriters to The Rose Theater and its mission to enrich the lives of children and families through live theater and arts education cannot be overstated. Their support is vital to the continued success of The Rose Theater, and we would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for being our partners during the 2016-17 season!

# Season Sponsors

Special thanks to the **Bob & Evelyn Veach Foundation** for its donation of free memberships to deserving families.





# **Show Sponsors**

























# **Underwriters**

Anonymous

Charles & Mary Heider Foundation

**David Scott Foundation** 

Hawks Foundation

Holland Foundation

Home Instead Senior Care

Iowa West Foundation

Lincoln Financial Foundation

Lincoln Financial Group

Lozier Foundation

Midwest Gastrointestinal

Pacific Life Foundation

Pape Family Foundation

Parker Family Foundation

Peter Kiewit Foundation

Pinnacle Bank

Rose Blumkin Performing Arts

Center Foundation

Rose Theater Guild

Richard Brooke Foundation

Sherwood Foundation

Shubert Foundation

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Union Pacific Railroad Valmont Industries

Whitmore Charitable Trust

William R. Patrick Foundation

# Government Support

Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund Nebraska Arts Council/ Nebraska Cultural Endowment Humanities Nebraska

National Endowment for the Arts

# **Every Single Child Sponsors**

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