INTRODUCTION

We offer this annual report at the start of a new era at Beck Center, as we approach our 90th season and enter the home stretch of our capital campaign and renovations.

Beck Center for the Arts is dedicated its mission: to inspire, enrich, and transform lives through dynamic arts experiences. Whether we are helping a shy child build self-confidence through performing on stage, encouraging an adult to discover a passion for painting, or teaching letters of the alphabet to a child in music therapy, our arts experiences open new worlds to people of all ages and abilities.

We are optimistic for the future and energized by our strategic plan which focuses on diversity, equity, inclusion, program accessibility and relevancy, institutional sustainability, board development, staff empowerment, and strategic collaborations. To those who have believed in our mission, advocated for support of the arts, and been a part of the 90-year legacy, you have our deepest gratitude.

Lucinda Einhouse, President & CEO

MURALS AT THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to partner with the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court and Judge Jennifer O’Malley with juvenile residents to create two collaborative murals inside the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center on Quincy Avenue. The work was meant to empower these residents and give them a visual voice, build self-esteem, and bring color to their neutral surroundings.

One of the residents who worked on the project said, “The Art Program really helped me to focus on something positive. I enjoyed the small conversations that I and the helpers had because it was deeper than the art. It was a nice experience, and I would for sure do it again!”

AWARDS

Scene Magazine Cleveland Critics’ Choice Awards 2022:
BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTION - Something Rotten, (Something Rotten)
BEST ACTOR, MUSICAL - Matthew Wright, (Something Rotten)
RISING STARS - Maurice Kimball IV, (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time)
BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION - Mathew Webb, (Lizzie)
BEST SOUND DESIGN - Angie Hayes, (Curious Incident)

Cleveland Magazine Best of the West:
Best Dance Theatre, and Best Music Instruction

TESTIMONIALS

Pat M: “I can learn something new, improve my skills and simply enjoy the arts. My three-year-old son and I can even take a class together. Beck Center offers arts education for all ages and abilities.”

Erica T: “Kristopher and his family are so grateful for the power of Art Therapy and the tremendous support they have received over the years from Beck Center’s Creative Arts Therapy Department. He has come such a long way from a boy who was too shy to participate in a classroom.”

Tom R: “I have felt really welcomed and appreciated since I began here as a volunteer. Everyone makes me feel that what I’m doing as a volunteer is important to what goes on at Beck, and that’s great.”
Beck Center for the Arts

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Beck Data Highpoints from 2022

- Older Adults Served: 8,624
- Individuals with Disabilities Served: 2,036
- Individuals served through free community programming: 17,000
- Square Footage Renovated 2020-2021: 35,000+ Sq. Ft.
- Financial Assistance Granted: $38,500
- Artists & Performers Employed: 258

2022 Highlights

- Razzle Dazzle, in partnership with Cuyahoga County Department of Disabilities, returned for its 20th season in April 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19. The cast of this lively show consists of adults with disabilities and community volunteers, many of whom have been part of numerous Razzle Dazzle productions over the last 20 years.
- The production of The Exonerated and Artistic Director Scott Spence’s effective partnership with The Ohio Innocence Project, including talk-backs after numerous performances, resulted in $3,644 in contributions to that organization from our audiences.
- Beck Center continues to expand partnerships to introduce our programming to new communities. Major partners during the past year include Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and over 45 community locations across Northeast Ohio, with the largest being Lakewood City School District.
- Over $6.7M+ was raised for Beck Center’s building renovations to ensure ADA accessibility, energy efficiency, and space functionality.
- Completion of renovations on the Center for Music & Creative Arts Therapies (M/CAT) was celebrated on March 10, 2022. This was a major accomplishment considering many unavoidable delays due to supply challenges and contractor illness. Everything was moved out of the Annex Building into the new space in time for the start of Winter/Spring semester classes on January 10, 2022.
- $500,000 in ARPA funding received from Cuyahoga County for roofing and HVAC systems.
- Capital Budget funding of $200,000 received from the State of Ohio for the final phase of renovations.
- After a two-year pandemic hiatus, Super Saturday (a morning of free arts activities for families with young children, on hold during the pandemic), was reintroduced to the community in June 2022. This free community program offers the opportunity for children to explore music, dance, theater, and the visual arts.
- The first annual Celebration of Diversity was held June 4-13, 2022, including the return of Super Saturday. Collaborations with Plexus (the LGBT and Allied Chamber of Commerce), The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland surrounding our production of “The Legend of Georgia McBride,” and a conversation with visual artists Donte Woods-Spikes and Richard Duarte Brown. In addition to attracting diverse audiences to the programs, we were pleased to begin new collaborative partnerships with Plexus, The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, and the Cleveland Association of Black Story Tellers.
- In honor of the organization’s 90th anniversary in 2023, a book was published on Amazon.com, about the history of Beck Center/Lakewood Little Theatre. The book is distributed on demand, with all proceeds going to Beck Center’s endowment. Written by President & CEO Lucinda Einhouse, Celebrating Our Past – Creating Our Future is meant to increase visibility of the organization and the need to build its endowment.
- The changing environment, continued renovation work, focus on equity and inclusion, and the upcoming 90th anniversary in 2023, meant that strategic planning was even more important than ever before. Thanks to funding from The Fowler Family Foundation, Gund Foundation, and Nord Family Foundation, Beck Center was able to engage Victor Ruiz and Gradient Think Tank on a three-year strategic plan for growth and sustainability that fully integrates diversity, equity, and inclusion. With input from board, faculty, staff, volunteers, and community leaders, the new Strategic Plan was completed and adopted in July, 2022.