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2021-2021 Annual Report

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MISSION

Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago’s home for music theatre, illuminates the past, present, and future of this American art form through live performance, youth education and outreach programs that positively impact and connect us to our community.

VISION

A nationally recognized cultural institution in Chicago, Porchlight brings people together to explore the human experience through the art of music theatre, fostering empathy, inclusion and community.

VALUES

- **We believe** that all voices and life experiences are essential to portraying on stage a complete picture of the human experience.

- **We are firmly committed** to the music theatre genre presented as an intimate experience.

- **We treat** artists, staff, volunteers, and audiences with respect and dignity, inviting all into our artistic home.

- **We strive** to be inclusive with representation in all aspects of our organization.

- **We invest** in the future of music theatre through nurturing and mentoring the next generation of artists and audiences.

- **We ensure** long-term organizational stability through prudent collaborations, strategic alliances, and sound fiscal planning.

Who we Are
Porchlight reaffirms our total commitment to justice, equity, diversity, access and inclusion as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. These principles are not only essential to Porchlight’s future vitality, relevance and sustainability, they are critical to creating a more just and accessible industry for a better society.

Porchlight values its audiences, artists, technicians, staff, board, donors, community partners, teachers, students and volunteers, and the uniqueness each brings to the tapestry of our art. We treat one another fairly and honor each other’s experiences, beliefs, perspectives, abilities, and backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability status, socio-economic status, national identity or other identity markers.

Porchlight recognizes the history of oppression and injustice that has resulted in ongoing disparities for those who were brought here against their will or migrated from their homeland, as well as for those who have lived on this land for centuries. Truth and acknowledgment are critical in building mutual respect and authentic connections across all barriers of heritage and difference. This statement is one small step in acknowledging the history that brought us to this place and time, and to help us seek understanding of our place within that history:

"With humility and respect for the original caretakers of the land, we recognize that, at its performance home at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Porchlight inhabits the land of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations, and many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox who also call this land their home. We recognize the sacred lands of all indigenous American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and First Nations peoples."

Porchlight is committed to aligning our values to our business practices. We are conscious of the need to promote diversity within our staff, board, production companies and audiences, as well as to ensure fairness, justice and inclusivity in our policies and procedures. We recognize this evolution is an ongoing process, and we invite you to follow our goals, progress and ways to get involved at porchlightmusictheatre.org.

Photograph by Liz Lauren
A LEADERSHIP MESSAGE:
RENEWAL & REBUILDING

Greetings! We write this annual message with much excitement for what lies ahead after our “rebuilding year” in 2021-2022, to borrow from the sports lexicon. As you’ll read in this report, Porchlight boldly stepped back into live productions and events last season. It was a busy year, but it wasn’t a normal season by any means. With the Covid pandemic still having a big adverse impact on our business, fiscal year 2022 for Porchlight was a steady progression of reassessment and reinvestment. We had to pivot here and there, but we largely kept to our plan and delivered a season full of excitement and quality.

Here's a recap of the year's highlights for us, much of which is detailed in these pages:

1. Returning to in-theater productions with a full slate of Mainstage offerings, as well as new editions of our Porchlight Revisits and New Faces Sing Broadway series. The electricity in the air on our first day back in the Ruth Page theater is something we’ll not soon forget.

2. The growth and momentum of our Porchlight Young Professionals group, PYP ramped up its events and recruitment efforts over the past season, hosting nights at the theater and playing a key role in the success of Chicago Sings.

Continued...
3 Expansion of our newest fan favorite, *Broadway in your Backyard*. This free summer concert series expanded to more neighborhood parks this year — reaching 2,200 people — with the help of the Chicago Park District and other sponsors including Byline Bank.

4 Gathering live for the ICONS Gala 2021 and celebrating with the fabulous Chita Rivera. Galleria Marchetti’s indoor-outdoor venue was perfect for our very first major event since Covid, and the excitement was palpable as Chef Rick Bayless accepted the Luminary Award on behalf of his family foundation. Commenting that “theatre in Chicago is BACK and it is ALIVE here at Porchlight Music Theatre!,” Bayless articulated what everyone in attendance was feeling.

5 Returning to live final performances for our youth programs. After pivoting between live and virtual for the last two seasons, we were thrilled we could reimplement the live final show so that family and friends could again watch their kids show off the results of their musical journey with Porchlight through our classes and camps.

6 A live Chicago Sings, this time celebrating Stephen Sondheim. After two years, Porchlight was back at the Museum of Contemporary Art playing to an at-capacity crowd in the Edlis Neeson theater, as well as a new PYP companion “Color & Light Lounge” experience.

7 The staged reading of a new musical, *Clear*, by Paul Oakley Stovall. On break from his tour of *Hamilton*, Stovall along with his creative team presented this powerful new work on one night only to a full audience at the Ruth Page.

8 Our first student matinees. We have been welcoming student groups for years, but starting with *Spring Awakening* we offered matinee performances — often at a more accessible time for classes — and at just $5 per ticket. By securing donations and funding, Porchlight will continue its commitment to this discounted price, which also comes with free dramaturgy and engagement options.

9 Recognition for our art and artists with The Joseph Jefferson Committee: 6 Jeff nominations and 4 awards, and Black Theatre Artists Alliance: 13 BTAA nominations and 3 awards.

10 Your support. As always, your generosity and enthusiasm for what we do means the world to us, and keeps us bringing you the best music theatre experiences in Chicago.

On behalf of the entire Porchlight staff and board, thank you and best wishes to you and yours in 2023!

Brian
Brian Troy, Board Chair

Jeannie
Jeannie Lukow, Executive Director

Michael
Michael Weber, Artistic Director
2021 - 2022 LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors
Brian Troy, Chair
Jim Jensen, Vice Chair
Jonathan Klein, Secretary
Gretchen Upholt, Treasurer
Michelle Cucchiaro
Brenda Didier
Jeremy Eden
Rhona Frazin
William Gilmer
Joseph Higgins
Mark Hudson
Charles Laff
Michael Lowenthal
Steve McDonagh
Cesar Rolon, Jr.
Sara Siegall
Tamara Sims

Ex Officio:
Jeannie Lukow
Michael Weber

Emeritae:
Mary Kay Conley
Rhoda Reeling

Artistic Advisory Board
Wm. Eric Bramlett
John Buccino
E. Faye Butler
Cheri Coons
Kevin Depinet
William Finn
Joel Grey
Larry Grossman
Linda Kline
Jesse Klug
Sean Allan Krill
Dominic Missimi
Jill Moore-Pancrazzi
Lonny Price
Hollis Resnik
Bill Russell
Chuck Smith
Walter Stearns
Bob Walton
Jim Walton
Maury Yeston

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Porchlight Young Professionals (PYP)
Lynn Barlow
Lanie Bayless
Kellie Buffington
August Compton
Cody Czmyr
Natalie Doppelt
Nate Groonwald
Carolyn Isaac
Rosie Schultz
Becca Sheehan
Yessenia Sosa

Board Development & Nominating Committee
Jeremy Eden, Chair
Michelle Cucchiaro
Rhona Frazin
Bill Gilmer
Jon Klein
Chuck Laffi
Steve McDonagh

Education Committee
Tony Gibson, Chair
Brenda Didier
Dushunda Henderson
Karen Jaffe
Michelle Lauto
Steve McDonagh
Rob Schroeder
Laura Steinfeld-Hamilton

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Committee
Frankie Leo Bennett, Chair
Felton Armand
E. Faye Butler
Ricky Harris
Jermaine Hill
Tanya Hinton
James Earl Jones II
Michelle Lauto
Nitha Fiona Nagubadi, PsyD, MBA, MS, Ph.D
Lorenzo Rush Jr.
Michael Weatherspoon
Honey West
Will Wilhelm
Ariel Williams

Finance Committee
Gretchen Upholt, Chair
Jim Jensen
Michael Lowenthal
Jeannie Lukow
Brian Troy
Michael Weber

Marketing & Engagement Committee
Mark Hudson, Chair
Elaine Cohen
Michelle Cucchiaro
Jeremy Eden
Rhona Frazin
Jim Jensen
Boyce Moffitt
Amy Osler Lowenthal
Cesar Rolon, Jr.
Tamara Sims
Annice Tatken

Development Committee
Rhona Frazin, Chair
Art Garwin
Joseph Higgins
Joel Rothman
Tamara Sims
Sue Tinnish

Education Committee
Tony Gibson, Chair
Brenda Didier
Dushunda Henderson
Karen Jaffe
Michelle Lauto
Steve McDonagh
Rob Schroeder
Laura Steinfeld-Hamilton

Facilities Committee
Chuck Laffi, Chair
James Brautl
Yolanda Deen
Lee Dickson
Jim Grusecki
William James
James Jensen
Annice Tatken

Meet the Team

Porchlight Young Professionals
Photo by Chollette
CURRENT FULL-TIME/ FULL-SEASON STAFF

Artistic Director: Michael Weber†

Audience Services Director: August Compton‡

Box Office Manager & Administration Associate: Elana Kennedy‡

Design Associate: Oni Wright‡

Development Director: Evin Marie Rayford‡

Development & Administration Associate: Kellie Buffington‡

Education Director: Rebecca Singer‡

Executive Director: Jeannie Lukow‡

Finance & Administration Director: Dan Thomas†

Front of House Associates: Sara Crounse‡ Charlotte Foster‡ Noelle Harrison‡ Noel Hartman‡ Christopher Leahy‡ Marissa Longo‡

House Manager: Jordan Fleming‡

Marketing Associate: Lobo Tate‡

Marketing & Communications Director: Mike Porto†

Media Relations: James Julian† & Jill Evans La Penna‡ SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations

Producing Artistic Associate: Frankie Leo Bennett†

Production Manager: Majel Cuza‡

Teaching Artists: Wesly Clergé† Deanna Cooper† Agnotti Cowie‡/§ Emma Costello‡ David Goodloe† Marcus Jackson† Avery Lareau‡ Dan Marie McMillan† Zoe Nadig‡ Tia Pinsont‡ Kayla Pulley‡ Shaina Schrooten‡/§

Staff photos and bios are available at porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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Meet the Team

Pump Boys and Dinettes (2021) Photo by Chollette
Mainstage

**PUMP BOYS & DINETTES**

October 30 - December 12, 2021
Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Directed by Daryl Brooks†
Music Directed by Robert Reddrick†
Choreographed by Rueben D. Echoles†

Porchlight’s first in-theater production in nearly two years and one of the longest running shows in Chicago theatre history, *Pump Boys & Dinettes* delighted audiences with its toe-tapping music on guitar, piano, bass and a kitchen utensil or two performed by the cast. Inspired by Director Daryl Brooks’ memories of his youth in a small town, *Pump Boys & Dinettes* was a much needed and joyful return to live theatre.

**Cast**
Rafe Bradford† (Eddie/Bass), Shantel Cribbs‡ (Prudie Cupp), Ian Custer† (Jim/Rhythm Guitar & U/S L.M), Frederick Harrist† (L.M/Piano), Melanie Loren‡ (Rhetta Cupp), Billy Rude† (Jackson/Lead Guitar), Caitlin Dobbins‡ (Stand by - Rhetta and Prudie Cupp), J.J. Smith† (Stand by - Jim and Jackson), Kelan Smith‡ (Stand by - Jim and Eddie).

**Production Team**
Rueben D. Echoles† (costume and wigs designer), Jennifer Aparicio‡ (production manager/SM swing), Eric Backus† (co-sound designer), Gianni Carcagno‡ (assistant stage manager/assistant audio engineer), Matthew R. Chase‡ (audio engineer), Andrea Engert (assistant stage manager/wardrobe manager), Deya Friedman‡ (production stage manager, AEA), Denise Karczewski‡ (lighting designer), Sydney Lynne‡ (scenic designer), Caitlin McCarthy‡ (properties designer), Johnnie Schleyer† (technical director), Stefanie M. Senior‡ (co-sound designer), Rachel West‡ (lighting supervisor), Rashaad A. Bond† (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan† (production and operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

**Attendance** 2,540
**Performances** 35
**Company Members** 29
**Black Theatre Alliance Award Nominations** 6

**A love letter to hometown hospitality and nostalgia.**
Christian Bufford, Rescripted Reviews

“Wonderfully nostalgic and wildly exuberant.”
Hedy Weiss, WTTW

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Photos by Chollette
Mainstage

**BLUES IN THE NIGHT**

February 9 - March 13, 2022
Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Directed & Choreographed by Kenny Ingram†
Music Directed by David Fiorello†
Assistant Choreographed by Ariel M. Dorsey‡
Associate Music Directed & Conducted by Maulty Jewell IV†

Blues in the Night’s opening was delayed due to a rise in COVID cases but when it did open a few weeks later, audiences and critics agreed that it was a hit. Led by Broadway’s Felicia P. Fields and a cast of incredible talent, Blues in the Night was set in a history-filled hotel on Chicago’s south side one fateful night in the late 1930s where three women share their highs and lows of romance through the iconic songs of Bessie Smith, Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen and many more.

Cast
Felicia P. Fields‡ (“The Lady from the Road”), Donica Lynn‡ (“The Woman of the World”), Clare Kennedy‡ (“The Girl with a Date”), Evan Tyrone Martin† (“The Man in the Saloon”), Terrell Armstrong† (“The Dancing Man”), Anna Marie Abbate‡ (Stand by - The Girl with a Date), Nolan Robinson† (Stand by - The Dancing Man), Aalon Smith‡ (Stand by - The Woman of the World, The Lady from the Road), Eustace J. Williams‡ (Stand by - The Man in the Saloon).

Musicians
Maulty Jewell IV† (keyboards), Rafe Bradford† (bass), Darius Hampton† (tenor sax, clarinet, flute), Ricardo Jimenez† (trumpet), Harold Morrison† (drums), Jeff Harris† (bass-sub).

Production Team
Alden Vasquez† (production stage manager), Rueben Echoles† (costume and wig designer), Brandon Wardell† (lighting designer), Eric Backus† (sound designer), Angela Weber Miller† (scenic designer), Caitlin McCarthy‡ (properties designer), Matthew R. Chase‡ (audio engineer), Rachel West‡ (lighting supervisor), Jaime Silverman‡ (wardrobe supervisor), Jennifer Aparicio‡ (production manager), Henry Wilkinson† (technical director), Frankie Leo Bennett† (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan† (production and operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

“A real musical escape... elegantly staged and with top-drawer local talent.”
Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

“Thrilling...powerful... a bona fide scorcher”
Catey Sullivan, Chicago Sun-Times

2,950 Attendance
25 Performances
31 Company Members
6 Black Theatre Alliance Award Nominations
2 Black Theatre Alliance Awards (Best Direction of a Musical, Kenny Ingram and Best Featured Actor in a Musical, Evan Tyrone Martin)
6 Jeff Award Nominations
4 Jeff Awards (Production/Revue-Large, Director/Revue-Large, Kenny Ingram, Performer In A Revue, Felicia P. Fields, Music Direction, David Fiorello)

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Photos by Anthony La Penna
Mainstage

**SPRING AWAKENING**

April 23 - June 2, 2022

Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Directed & Choreographed by Brenda Didier

Music Directed by Justin Akira Kono

Assistant Directed by Lorenzo Rush, Jr.

Associate Choreographed by Alejandro Fonseca

The 2021 - 2022 Mainstage season concluded with the haunting and provocative *Spring Awakening*. This landmark American musical celebrated a journey from adolescence to adulthood with power, poignancy and passion. During the spring run of this production Porchlight saw an increase in younger audiences coming to the theatre and the positive reviews and strong word of mouth made this a must-see production.

**Cast**

Ariana Burks (Martha), McKinley Carter (The Adult Women), Jack DeCesare (Melchior), Isis Elizabeth (ensemble / US Anna & Thea), Desiree Gonzalez (ensemble / US Wendla & Ilse), Ryan Michael Hamman (ensemble / US Otto & Ernst), Maya Lou Hlava (Wendla), Quinn Kelch (Moritz), Maddy Kelly (Thea), John Marshall Jr. (Hanschen), Drew Mitchell (ensemble / US Melchior & Georg), Michael Joseph Mitchell (The Adult Men), Juwon Tyrel Perry (Georg / US Hanschen), Kevin James Sievert (Otto / US Moritz), Kelan M. Smith (Ernst), Sydney Monet Swanson (Anna / US Martha), Tiffany T. Taylor (Ilse), Genevieve Thiers (US The Adult Women), Anthony Whitaker (US The Adult Men).

**Musicians**

Justin Akira Kono (piano, conductor), Hillary Bayleys (violin), Marcel Bonfim (bass), Owen Cooper (guitar), Sara Morrow (viola), Lior Shragg (drums).

**Production Team**

Kristina Fluty (intimacy director), Jonathan Berg-Einhorn (properties designer), Patrick Chan (lighting designer), Matthew R. Chase (sound designer), Bill Morey, USA (costume designer), Chris Photon, USA (scenic designer), Johnnie Schleyer (scenic supervisor), Jamie Silverman (wardrobe supervisor), Jamie Davis (audio supervisor & engineer), Jerry Galante (fight choreographer), Richard Strimer (production stage manager, AEA), Caitlin Body (assistant stage manager, AEA), Peyton Cooper (assistant stage manager), Andrea Enget (assistant stage manager), Rachel West (lighting supervisor), Frankie Leo Bennett (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan (production & operations director), Michael Weber (artistic director).

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“This is a show to run to.”
Ted C. Fishman, NewCity

“Best local production of this work to date.”
Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune
“Nunsense at Porchlight Music Theatre is the perfect blithe comedy to get you back in the habit of live theater.”
Kathleen Anwar, BroadwayWorld.com

“For a show that’s all about the nuns, I also loved that Nunsense had an all-female directing and choreography team.”
Rachel Weinberg, RachelWeinbergReviews.com

Porchlight Revisits NUNSENSE
November 17 & 18, 2021
Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Directed by Michelle Lauto‡
Music Directed by Kailey Rockwell‡
Choreographed by Jenna Schoppe‡

Nunsense was a celebration of the worldwide tour-de-force that has brought laughter to audiences for more than 30 years. Michelle Lauto, in her directorial debut, had audiences laughing and on their feet for the launch of the eighth season of the Porchlight Revisits series. Rachel Weinberg of RachelWeinbergReviews.com said Artistic Director Michael Weber’s “Behind the Show Backstory” “remains a joy” and she “was particularly impressed with Weber’s discussion of the show in the context of other musicals centered on religious themes.”

Cast
Missy Aguilar‡ (Sister Robert Anne), Cynthia Carter‡ (Sister Mary Regina), Landree Fleming† (Sister Mary Amnesia), Rebecca Keeshin‡ (Sister Mary Leo), Kyra Leigh‡ (Sister Mary Hubert).

Musicians
Kailey Rockwell‡ (conductor/piano), Justin Harner† (additional keyboard), Erik Brink† (reeds), Maddi Vogel† (drums).

Production Team
Rachel Sypniewski‡ (costume designer), RachelWEST† (lighting designer), Matthew R. Chase† (sound designer), Caitlin Bodys‡ (production stage manager, AEA), Andrea Engert† (assistant stage manager), Jennifer Aparicio‡ (production manager), Rashaad A. Bond† (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyant† (production and operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

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Photos by Justin Kocher
Porchlight Revisits
PASSING STRANGE

May 18 & 19, 2022
Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Directed by Donterrio†
Music Directed by Bryan McCaffrey†
Choreographed by Terri K Woodall‡

This emotional global journey of a young musician chasing youthful dreams and spiritual clarity against a shifting backdrop of locales and acquaintances is loaded with soulful lyrics and passion. It debuted to critical acclaim on Broadway in 2008, and was given the Porchlight Revisits treatment with an incredibly intimate and profound production.

Cast
Michael Maurice Ashford†, Rueben Echoles†, Reneisha J. Jenkins‡, MJ Rawls‡, Nolan Robinson†, Byron Willis†, Jasmine Lacy Young‡.

Musicians
Kelan Smith† (guitar), Marcel Bonfim† (bass), Cami Mennitte‡ (drums).

Production Team
Jyreika Guest‡ (intimacy director), Rachel West‡ (lighting designer), Gregory Graham† (costume designer), Matthew R. Chase† (production manager), Frankie Leo Bennett† (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan† (production and operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

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Photos by Lobo Tate

"Stew's groundbreaking 2008 musical about a Black artist gets a second look”
Matt Simonette, Chicago Reader
Porchlight’s New Faces Sing Broadway series continues to be a platform to showcase the latest new talents in Chicago. Many of the New Faces have gone on to perform in Porchlight Mainstage productions and on stages in Chicago, on Broadway and around the country. In this edition, host Robin DaSilva and the New Faces took audiences on a music-filled trip through the 1947 Broadway season with songs from Brigadoon, Finian’s Rainbow, High Button Shoes, Annie Get Your Gun and more.

**New Faces Sing Broadway Series**

**NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1947**
(virtual)
April 8 - May 5, 2022

Filmed at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts
Directed by Adrian Abel Azevedo
Music Directed by Linda Madonia
Hosted by Robin DaSilva‡

**Cast**
Samantha Behen‡, Anna Brockman‡, Jonah Cochin‡, Breanna Ghostone‡, Nathan Karnik‡, Austin Nelson Jr.‡, Oliver Schilling‡, Destiny Strothers‡, Ciarra Stroud‡, Austin Winter‡/†.

**Production Team**
Mark Brown‡ (lighting technician), Chollette‡ (video editor), Austin Crowley‡ (videographer), Matthew R. Chase‡ (sound designer), Alex Groesch‡ (assistant camera operator), Frankie Leo Bennett‡ (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan‡ (production & operations director), Michael Weber‡ (artistic director).

Porchlight made its Center on Halsted debut with New Faces Sing Broadway 1971. The host for this salute to Broadway 1971 and New Faces return to live performances was Ed Kross. Kross and the up-and-coming actors performed songs from Follies, Hello, Dolly!, Jesus Christ Superstar, On the Town, 70, Girls, 70, Two by Two, You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown and others.

**New Faces Sing Broadway Series**

**NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1971**
August 3, 2022

Center on Halsted
Directed by Frankie Leo Bennett‡
Music Directed by Bryan McCaffrey†
Hosted by Ed Kross‡

**Cast**
Rachel Carreras‡, Maddison Denault‡, Kristin Doty‡, Josiah Haugen‡, David Moreland‡, Hanah Rose Nardone‡, Maxel Schingen‡/†, Quinn Simmonst, Kelcy Taylor‡, Evan Wilhelm†.

**Production Team**
David Fiorello (piano), Alex Rhyan† (production & operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

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Staged Reading

**CLEAR**
May 31, 2022

Ruth Page Center for the Arts
Directed by Reneisha J. Jenkins†
Music Directed by Austin Deadman†

**Cast**
Paul Oakley Stovall† (Lawson), Nikhil Saboo† (Ryan), Stef Tovar† (Jake), Sharriese Hamilton‡ (Rae), Gabriel Mudd† (Anthony), Andrew Mueller† (Kenny/Tomasz/White Boys), Sara Sevigny‡ (Samantha), Alexis J Roston‡ (Stephens), Tiffany Renee Johnson‡ (Life).

**Musicians**
Austin Deadman† (conductor/piano), Vance Okraszewski† (bass), Brandon Bott† (drums).

**Production Team**
Matthew R. Chase† (production manager), Michael Hendricks† (production stage manager), Frankie Leo Bennett† (producing artistic associate), Alex Rhyan† (production & operations director), Michael Weber† (artistic director).

—

Summer Concert

**BROADWAY IN YOUR BACKYARD**

August 10 & 11, 2022
Ambassador Chicago

Directed by Frankie Leo Bennett†
Music Directed by Justin Akira Kono†

Porchlight returned to the Ambassador Chicago in the Gold Coast for a second year with Broadway in your Backyard. The performance on the 17th floor Astor Terrace included a reception with drinks and appetizers and a performance from the 2022 Broadway in your Backyard Ambassador Chicago company including Caitlin Dobbins‡, Nik Kmiecik†, Jennifer Ledesma‡, Bryan McCaffrey† and David Fiorello†.

—we gratefully acknowledge sponsors Jeremy Eden & Nancy Marder and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

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Community Engagement

BROADWAY IN YOUR BACKYARD

July 19 - September 6, 2022
Directed by Frankie Leo Bennett†
Music Directed by Justin Akira Kono‡

CAST
Lydia Burke‡, Caitlin Dobbins‡, Nik Kmiecik†, Justin Akira Kono†, Jennifer Ledesma‡, Bryan McCaffrey†, Brandon Pisano†/‡, Lorenzo Rush, Jr†, David Fiorello†.

Broadway in your Backyard, now in its second year, is Porchlight’s free outdoor summer concert series. For 2022, Porchlight partnered with the Chicago’s Night Out in the Parks series — with support from the Mayor’s Office and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events — to reach more parks and people throughout Chicago. The rotating company performed favorite songs from RENT, Hello, Dolly!, The Music Man, Grease, Six, The Little Mermaid, Hair, West Side Story, Mamma Mia! and more.

DATES & LOCATIONS
All performances were one-hour long, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wicker Park
1425 N. Damen Ave.
Tuesday, July 19

Unity Park
2636 N. Kimball Ave.
Tuesday, July 26
(additional support from the Unity Park Advisory Council)

Portage Park
4100 N. Long Ave.
Tuesday, Aug. 2

Munroe Park
2617 W. 105th St.
Tuesday, Aug. 9
(additional support from the Beverly Area Planning Association)

Washington Square Park
901 N. Clark St.
Tuesday, Aug. 16
(additional support from the Washington Square Park Advisory Council)

Park No. 534
1300 S. St. Louis Ave.
Tuesday, Aug. 23

Gill Park
825 W. Sheridan Rd.
Tuesday, Aug. 30

Ellis Park
3520 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Tuesday, Sept. 6

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of the Chicago Park District and Byline Bank.

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Photos by Porchlight Music Theatre
Porchlight Music Theatre was thrilled to perform at the first “Evening on Division,” formerly “Evening on Astor” that featured a wide variety of wonderful food, a terrific selection of drinks, delightful music and a great opportunity to see neighbors and make new friends.

Porchlight performed twice at this new event to encourage people to visit State Street. We were invited on behalf of the Chicago Loop Alliance. Neighbors from every Chicago community and beyond came together for this free, interactive block party, while safely enjoying art, culture, active recreation, food and drink, shopping and local attractions in the heart of everyone’s neighborhood – the Loop. Sundays on State met and exceeded the event’s three primary goals of accelerating the economic recovery, uniting the community and creating joy.

Porchlight joined more than 40 of Chicago’s brightest cultural institutions performing in the same location for the first time ever in one “can’t miss” event at Navy Pier.

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Photos by Porchlight Music Theatre
Virtual Programming

PORCHLIGHT ONLINE

Porchlight continued many of the free virtual programs it launched immediately after the start of the pandemic.

WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio

As of the close of FY22, Porchlight had released 112 episodes of WPMT. Every Tuesday fans have been treated to “WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio” where Artistic Director Michael Weber introduces musicals from the early to mid 20th century as they were heard on network radio programs such as The Lux Radio Theatre and The Theatre Guild on the Air, often featuring members of the original Broadway casts.

Porchlight By Request

We asked some of our supporters to tell us their favorite show tune, then arranged for a favorite Porchlight performer to sing that request and share it with them and you! The series, created and hosted by Artistic Director Michael Weber, gathered talents from Chicago, Broadway and the world of theater to discuss each of the musical stage works of Stephen Sondheim in celebration of his 90th birthday year. Each “Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable” episode focused on a specific Sondheim musical in conversation with special guests supported by videos of live and filmed performances, providing an engaging and informative overview of that week’s production and Sondheim’s impact on the performing arts. This virtual series continues to be available, free, via our website.

I’ll Drink to That

Porchlight Music Theatre offered “I’ll Drink to That,” a complementary series to “Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable,” hosted by Porchlight Board Member and Hearty Boy Steve McDonagh. Each week, McDonagh shared a cocktail recipe that pairs with that Saturday’s “Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable with host Michael Weber” episode.

Movie Musical Mondays

Movie Musical Monday returned in spring of 2022 with a monthly meeting on Zoom to discuss new and classic movies. Also in 2022, Porchlight launched the Movie Musical Monday Podcast that is available on all listening platforms.

VISIT THE YOUTUBE PAGE
Education & Outreach

Photo by Porchlight Music Theatre
Porchlight reached more students than ever in 2021-2022, through our onsite youth programs, in school programs all over the city, and through our partnership with Chicago Youth Centers.

**FOR YOUTH:**

**Fall and Spring Classes & Summer Camps**

Our youth classes were finally back to in-person final performances for family and friends and added a younger age group to serve ages 4-6 years. We were so happy to see familiar faces and new students each term and two of our summer groups were so popular they split into double sections! Our students studied acting, singing, dancing, writing characters, learned to choreograph and collaborate on a story and create props and costume pieces for their performance. Our Advanced Music Theatre Performance campers (aged 14-17) even enjoyed a mock audition masterclass focusing on the college audition process.

**FOR SCHOOLS**

“Sing Out!” Residencies, Production Support & Student Matinees

Our signature in-school residency, Sing Out!, has reached so many more students this year— including winning five Creative Schools Fund grants from Ingenuity for program delivery at Orozco Elementary, Palmer Elementary, Hale Elementary, Neil Elementary and Clay Elementary. We were able to bring our expertise in music theatre to several schools as we helped them put on their own musicals at Chicago Academy Elementary, Inter-American Magnet School and Senn High School. We helped with everything from choosing a title and securing rights, casting, choreography, and staging their performance for their family and school community. This year we were so excited for our first student matinee for Spring Awakening followed by a talkback with some of the cast. We were able to welcome all students and their chaperones for just $5/ticket.

Photos by Porchlight Music Theatre
EVENTS

ICONS GALA

October 20, 2021
Galleria Marchetti

Directed by Artistic Director Michael Weber‡
Music Directed by Linda Madonia‡
Choreographed by Laura Savage‡

Porchlight kicked off the season in style, moving its annual Gala to the fall and celebrating the amazing Chita Rivera with its first in-person, indoor event in nearly two years. Porchlight marked 26 years as the center for music theatre in Chicago, honored Rivera with The ICON Award, presented Rick and Deann Bayless and the Bayless Family Foundation with the Luminary Award and celebrated Latino business and civic leaders. Matthew Rodrigues, of “Chicago Today” on NBC5, served as host for the evening, and WGN’s Paul Lisnek led a fascinating onstage conversation with Ms. Rivera.

Host Committee
Bill Kurtis and
Donna La Pietra, Chairs
Patricia Mota,
Honorary Chair
Michelle & Steve Cucchiaro
Jeremy Eden
& Nancy Marder
Rhona & Julian Frazier
Art Garwin
Tony Gibson & Tom Perry
Joseph Higgins
& Scott Hoehman
Jim Jensen
Susan E. Cohn
& Jonation D. Klein
Susan Klingenstein
Chuck & Diane Laff
Steve McDonagh
& Dan Smith
Boyce Moffett
Cesar Rolon, Jr.

Scene Changer Honorees
This honor recognized organizations and individuals who are “changing the scene” of Chicago’s cultural landscape.

Olga Camargo - CEO & Founder, FARO Associates LLC
Martin R. Castro - President & CEO, Casa Central
Dr. Ana Gil Garcia - Professor Emerita & Fulbright Scholar, Northeastern Illinois University
Hilda Frontany - Board Chair, Rincon Family Services
Marlene Gonzales - President, LCG Group LLC
Iris Y. Martinez - Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County
Xavier Nogueras - Co-Founder, Illinois Unidos / Founder, BOCA Media Group
Sylvia Puente - President & CEO, Latino Policy Forum
Shell Reyes - Owner, Shell Reyes Designs & Appraisals
José R. Sánchez - President & CEO, Humboldt Park Health
Mario Tetro, Jr. - Acting Secretary, Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation

Cast
Ariel Dorsey‡, Alejandro Fonseca‡,
Michelle Lauto‡, Mia Nevarez‡, Laura Savage‡, Kyra Sorce‡, Keely Vasquez‡.

Musicians
Linda Madonia‡ (conductor/piano),
Marcel Bonfim† (bass), Matt Beck† (reeds), Justin Akira Kono† (drums).

Production Team
Adrian Abel Azevedo† (creative associate),
Bill Morey† (costume designer),
Frankie Leo Bennett† (assistant to Ms. Rivera),
Austin Crowley† (videographer),
Dan Bragiel† (videographer),
Rashaad A. Bond† (production assistant),
Alex Rhyan† (production & operations director).

Pronoun key:
† (he/him/his)
‡ (she/her/hers)
Ť (they, them, theirs)
Ť (any, with respect)

Photos by Antonio Dickey
Your support helps us reimagine what is possible, push the walls of our creativity and dream a bright future for Porchlight.

THANK YOU.
May 23, 2022
Museum of Contemporary Art

Directed by Artistic Director
Michael Weber† & Producing Artistic Associate
Frankie Leo Bennett†
Music Directed by David Fiorello† Choreographed by Alejandro Fonseca‡ & Laura Savage‡

Musicians
David Fiorello† (conductor/piano), Rafe Bradford† (bass), Hillary Bayley‡ (violin), Lewis Rawlinson† (cello), Justin Akira Kono‡ (drums).

EVENTS

CHICAGO SINGS:
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Chicago Sings is Porchlight’s highly anticipated annual fundraising celebration honoring artists whose music has changed the world, presented by a who’s-who roster of Chicago music theatre and cabaret favorites. This year’s Chicago Sings was a celebration of the life and art of the great composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim and the presentation of the Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago to Jim Corti. The 2022 concert broke previous attendance and fundraising records, and, for the first time in Chicago Sings history, Porchlight offered two opportunities to experience Chicago’s music theatre and cabaret performers saluting Sondheim: “It’s a Hit” Live Experience that included a reception and live viewing in the Edlis Neeson Auditorium and the “Color & Light” Lounge Experience, hosted by the Porchlight Young Professionals, with a live stream of the concert in a lounge created on the second floor of the MCA.

Cast
Larry Adams†, Bryce Ancill†, Neala Barron‡, Justin Brili†, Brianna Borger‡, Christine Bunun‡, Lydia Burke‡, Andrés Enriquez‡, Parker Guidry‡, Cecilia Iole‡, Paul Jordan Jansen†, Mark David Kaplan‡, Clare Kennedy‡, Nik Kmiecik‡, Taylor Lane, Evan Tyron Martin†, Beckie Menzies‡, Juwon Tyrel Perry‡, Nolan Robinson†, Kelan M. Smith‡, Greg Strauss†, Genevieve Thiers‡, Nancy Voight§ with child performers Celeste Kaplan‡, Gabriel Lockhart‡, Mateo Martinez‡ and performer/child supervisor Becky Keeshin‡.

Planning Committee
Genevieve Thiers, Chair
Kit Bararo
Bill Bergfalk
Michelle Cucchiaro
Cody Czmyr
Brian Donlan
Jeremy Eden
Rhona Frazin
Art Garwin

Sponsors
Mesirow Financial
Jeremy Eden & Nancy Marder
Brenda & Jim Grusecki
Michelle & Steve Cucchiaro
Bill Gilmer & John Blackburn
Rhonda Rochambeau & Larry Shulman
Emily & Bob Carroll
Joyce Chelberg
Ellen Dalton
Rhona & Julian Frazin
Art Garwin
Mark Hudson & Russell Johnson
Jim Jensen

Jim Jensen
Jean Klingenstein
Boyce Moffitt
Amy Osler Lowenthal
Rosie Schultz
Sara Siegall
Tamara Sims
Yessenia Sosa

Planning Committee
Genevieve Thiers, Chair
Kit Bararo
Bill Bergfalk
Michelle Cucchiaro
Cody Czmyr
Brian Donlan
Jeremy Eden
Rhona Frazin
Art Garwin

Sponsors
Mesirow Financial
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Bill Gilmer & John Blackburn
Rhonda Rochambeau & Larry Shulman
Emily & Bob Carroll
Joyce Chelberg
Ellen Dalton
Rhona & Julian Frazin
Art Garwin
Mark Hudson & Russell Johnson
Jim Jensen

Jim Jensen
Jean Klingenstein
Boyce Moffitt
Amy Osler Lowenthal
Rosie Schultz
Sara Siegall
Tamara Sims
Yessenia Sosa

Pronoun key:
† (he/him/his)
‡ (she/her/hers)
Ť (they, them, theirs)
Ṯ (any, with respect)

Photo by Chollette
WAYS TO SUPPORT PORCHLIGHT

Our Porchlight community supports us in a variety of ways that allow us to inspire and entertain, and helps us ensure the future of music theatre in Chicago.

THE ANNUAL FUND
Porchlight counts on the hundreds of individuals who make unrestricted contributions each season, enabling us to produce the highest quality, most exciting music theatre featuring the most talented performers, designers and technicians. Because ticket sales only cover about 50% of our nonprofit’s budget, these hundreds of annual donors of $100-$2,499 make all the difference in our ability to shine.

THE GEORGE K. SARGENT III CASH RESERVE FUND
Achieving financial stability is the key to expanding programming, innovating, taking artistic risks and weathering economic downturns. A cash reserve fund is an important strategic goal championed by long-time board member Kim Sargent who passed away in June 2019. His legacy of strong fiscal stewardship continues to inspire all of us at Porchlight, and we established this fund in his memory. Porchlight commits a percentage of annual surpluses to this Fund, and welcomes contributions to support this endeavor.

THE SONGBOOK SOCIETY
Members of the Songbook Society are music theatre lovers who have a strong appreciation for the excellence of music theatre and enjoy getting to know others who share the same enthusiasm and passion for Porchlight. Contributing $2,500+ annually, these dedicated stakeholders serve as advocates and enjoy special access and unique opportunities that deepen their engagement with the art and artists.

THE RACHEL ROCKWELL MEMORIAL FUND:
Supporting Fierce Women Behind the Table at Porchlight Music Theatre
This fund was established by Porchlight board member Brenda Didier to recognize, employ and support women in artistic leadership positions at Porchlight Music Theatre in memory of theatre director, choreographer and performer Rachel Rockwell. Contributions to this Fund will allow us to advance and highlight more dynamic females in our field.

THE CHRISTOPHER N. TISONE MEMORIAL STAGE MANAGEMENT FUND
Through the generosity of the Tisone family, this fund supports a combination of both seasoned stage managers as well as stage managers newer in their careers who are working on Porchlight productions in a given year. Support for this Fund allows us to continue to highlight, support and mentor our “SMs” who make the show run.

PLANNED GIVING
Planned giving is a way to make a future gift through your financial and estate plans. Your gift may provide tax benefits for you or your loved ones, and it will ensure that the enjoyment and enrichment you’ve experienced at Porchlight is available for generations to come. Through your future gift, you can continue to support Porchlight’s artistic work and exceptional arts education and outreach programs.
OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

The following reflects contributions received between 9/1/21-8/31/22.

For more information about how you can support our work on stage and in the community, please contact Kellie Buffington, Development & Administration Associate, at kellie@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

$25,000+
Anonymous (2)
Shaun and Andrew Block
Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin
Jeremy Eden and Nancy Marder
James P. and Brenda S. Crusecki
Family Foundation
The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at Prince
Daniel and Genevieve Ratner Foundation

$24,999 - 10,000
Allstate
Anonymous (2)
Bob and Emily Carroll
Joyce Chelberg
Steve and Michelle Cucchiaro
Brenda Didier and Mike Seiler
Illinois Arts Council Agency
James Jensen
Chuck and Diane Laff
Greg and Anne Taubeneck
Family Fund at the Chicago Community Foundation
Carl and Karen Tisone
The Pritzker Traubert Foundation

$9,999 - 5,000
Bayless Family Foundation
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
Abe & Ida Cooper Foundation
Ellen Dalton
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Rhona and Julian Frazil
Arthur Garwin
Tony Gibson and Tom Perry
Bill Gilmer and John Blackburn
Diane Graham-Henry and Tom Hall
Bob and Mardee Gramen
Scott Hoesman and Joe Higgins
Mark D. Hudson and Russell N. Johnson

$4,999 - 2,500
Anonymous (2)
John Belom
William Bergfalk and Roland Hansen
Byline Bank
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Jonathan Klein and Susan Cohn
Michael Lowenthal
Mesirov Financial
David New
Daniel and Terry Pramuk
Nancy Ratner
Stacy Ratner
Joel and Jeri Rothman
Kim Shambrook
Sara Siegall and Taron Tachman
Jay and Tamara Sims
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Brian Troy
Amy Wielunski

$2,499 - 1,000
Geoffrey Anderson
Catherine Barbaro
Kent Bartram
Olga Camargo
Michael Camp
Ann and Richard Carr
Gerald Cholewa and Ronald Klimk
James Dolenc and Tom Riker
Brian Donlan and Todd Arp
Cameron Erens
Judith R. Freeman
Tom and Marcia Fritz
Sarah Walczewski and Michael Girts
Bruce Gober, MD
Carlos Gonzalez
Jane and Bob Grover
Jeffrey and Susan Hebble
Dixie Johnson
Carolyn and Gordon Kirk
Barbara LaSpesa
League of Chicago Theatres

$2,499 - 1,000
Geoffrey Anderson
Catherine Barbaro
Kent Bartram
Olga Camargo
Michael Camp
Ann and Richard Carr
Gerald Cholewa and Ronald Klimk
James Dolenc and Tom Riker
Brian Donlan and Todd Arp
Cameron Erens
Judith R. Freeman
Tom and Marcia Fritz
Sarah Walczewski and Michael Girts
Bruce Gober, MD
Carlos Gonzalez
Jane and Bob Grover
Jeffrey and Susan Hebble
Dixie Johnson
Carolyn and Gordon Kirk
Barbara LaSpesa
League of Chicago Theatres

$999 - 500
Anonymous (2)
Jennifer Aguilar
Judith Barnard and Michael Fain
Helene Berlin
Martin Yee and John Brill
Timothy and Jacqueline Bryant
Colette Clancy
Cheryl Coons
Brendan Cournane
Carl Cucco

$999 - 500
Anonymous (2)
Jennifer Aguilar
Judith Barnard and Michael Fain
Helene Berlin
Martin Yee and John Brill
Timothy and Jacqueline Bryant
Colette Clancy
Cheryl Coons
Brendan Cournane
Carl Cucco
**FY22 Statement of Activities**  
(unaudited)

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Earned</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Revenue</td>
<td>$445,664</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>445,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Revenue</td>
<td>101,104</td>
<td>101,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Earned Revenue</td>
<td>31,079</td>
<td>31,079</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Earned</strong></td>
<td>577,847</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>577,847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |                           |                         |       |
| **Contributed**      |                           |                         |       |
| Individual Giving    | 330,899                   | 58,248                  | 389,147 |
| Grants incl Government Support | 1,226,465   | (397,467)              | 828,998 |
| Events, net of expenses | 141,705                | -                       | 141,705 |
| Corporate Support    | 20,508                    | 6,499                   | 27,007 |
| **Total Contributed** | 1,719,577                | (332,720)               | 1,386,857 |

| **Total Revenue**    | 2,297,424                 | (332,720)               | 1,964,704 |

### Expenses

|                      |                           |                         |       |
| **Program**          |                           |                         |       |
| Production Expenses  | 1,086,927                 | -                       | 1,086,927 |
| Education Expenses   | 103,414                   | 103,414                 |       |
| **Total Program**    | 1,190,341                 | -                       | 1,190,341 |
| Management and General | 789,944                 | -                       | 789,944 |
| Fundraising          | 137,485                   | 137,485                 |       |
| **Total Expenses**   | 2,117,770                 | -                       | 2,117,770 |

| **Change in Net Assets** | 179,654                 | (332,720)              | (153,066) |

### Change in Net Assets

|                      |                           |                         |       |
| **Without Donor Restrictions** | 179,654                 | (332,720)              | (153,066) |
| **With Donor Restrictions**    |                         |                         |         |
| **Total**                  | 179,654                  | (332,720)               | (153,066) |

**Statement of Financial Position for the Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2022**  
(unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Assets</strong></th>
<th>Aug 31 2022</th>
<th>Aug 31 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>614,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>59,179</td>
<td>34,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>39,532</td>
<td>32,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>829,270</td>
<td>1,017,029</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment, net</td>
<td>33,136</td>
<td>34,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>862,406</td>
<td>1,051,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Liabilities</td>
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<td>141,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>98,268</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>139,897</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>275,542</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating</td>
<td>408,898</td>
<td>245,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated “Sargent” Fund</td>
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<td>50,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>147,942</td>
<td>480,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>623,066</td>
<td>776,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>862,406</td>
<td>1,051,601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOX OFFICE & PERFORMANCE SPACE
Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

ADMINISTRATION & PRODUCTION FACILITY
Workshop 4200
4200 W. Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

773-777-9884
porchlightmusictheatre.org