



WCT BY THE NUMBERS IN 2013:

8

Main stage Productions

3,500

Patrons attending productions and special events

3

Reader's Theatre productions

15

Partnerships with outside organizations

\$185,000

Annual value of work done by WCT volunteers

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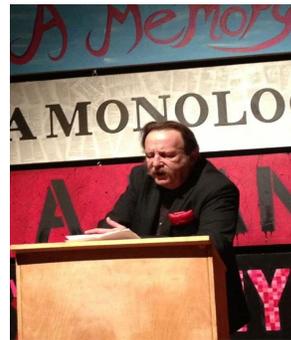
Annual Report 2013

Theatre Receives City of Wichita Grant

Every year the City of Wichita solicits applications from 501(c) (3) organizations for its Cultural Funding grant. WCT recently became eligible to apply for this grant after recent renovations in the past few years to make the theatre ADA compliant. Mitzi Sullivan, Grant Coordinator and WCT board member, worked countless hours along with help from the Grants Committee and WCT board members to submit the application for the grant.

After a review and interview process by the Cultural Funding Committee, WCT was awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,451. Funds received from this grant will help to defray operating costs such as utilities, scripts and royalties for delivering additional productions at the theatre.

"These funds will enable us to achieve even more in 2014 than we did in the previous year. We are extremely proud to be se-



The City of Wichita grant will allow WCT to present additional productions including a Reader's Theatre series by local playwrights.

lected by the City of Wichita for this prestigious opportunity", said Ben Blankley, President of Wichita Community Theatre.

As part of the requirements of the grant, WCT is required to submit reports on its progress with utilizing grant funds to achieve SMART goals as listed in the grant application. SMART goals that the theatre must show that it has met include increasing audience attendance by presenting an additional production by a local playwright and increasing special events that offer educational opportunities for youth. These goals also were part of the recent strategic plan adopted by the WCT board at board retreats. The theatre plans to apply for the grant again in 2014.

WCT Honored with MJT Awards

At the annual Mary Jane Teall Theatre Awards ceremony held on September 23, 2013, WCT was again honored with several awards for productions, acting, tech and volunteerism. WCT received a total of 20 awards. Among these honors, WCT's recent production of Doubt was recognized with 8 awards alone including: City-Wide Drama,

Lead Male Actor in a Drama, Lead Female Drama, Two Lead Supporting Female Drama honors, Director, Lighting and Sound. WCT productions of Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Dixie Swim Club and The Underpants also received honors.

The highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of Cindy

Pursell, WCT board member as Volunteer of the Year for her efforts in recruiting volunteers from the United Way and procuring donations for much needed capital improvement projects at the theatre. Don Wineke, longtime WCT actor and director was also inducted in to the Mary Jane Teall Theatre Hall of Fame that evening.



Ben Blankley
Board President
Wichita Community
Theatre

"I won the four tickets from the raffle during the run of the Zombie to benefit Victory in the Valley. Thank you WCT for deciding to do this. As an eight-year breast cancer survivor, I benefited from Victory in the Valley in 2006, all without any cost to me. This was a very good cause."

- Marlene Coker

(from WCT's Facebook Page)



Education Coordinator Jessica Fisher presents a check to Krista Nelson, recipient of WCT's first scholarship.

State of the Theatre

Wow! 2013 has been an incredible year for Wichita Community Theatre and its volunteers. We continue to enrich the Wichita area with opportunities for all kinds of folks to "tread the boards" of live theater.

Seven years ago I darkened the doors of the welcoming Wichita theater community, having been someone with only high school theater experience to draw on. Since then, I and hundreds of others have con-

tinued to foster a safe production environment where we all are encouraged to take on-stage risks, and succeed.

In the coming decade, I hope WCT grows even beyond the hey-days of the 1960s and 1970s, where WCT regularly featured, as guest artists, Hollywood and Broadway actors and actresses in the prime of their careers. I see a future Wichita Community Theatre that performs once again to house sizes of hundreds in

expansive auditoriums. I have seen, in just the past five years, the Wichita theater community growing by leaps and bounds, and earning regional prominence.

In order to get there, we continue to need your help and friendship. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on your hard work to help make our city a better place to live. Thank you for all you do.

Ben Blankley

Partnerships Increase

Beginning with the 2013-2014 season (and some shows in the previous season), WCT began an initiative to partner with a non-profit organization for each production. Recent partnerships include an underwear drive during the production of *The Underpants*. New underwear donated by patrons during run of the show were donated to YWCA Women's

Crisis Center.

Another partnership was with Victory in the Valley, a local cancer support organization. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is in October, which coincided with WCT's production of *The Zombie*, so WCT had a raffle where patrons could donate to Victory in the Valley to win 4 tickets to an upcoming WCT production.

Most recently, WCT partnered with Youth for Christ and approximately 15 youth came to see a production of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and stayed afterwards for an educational talk-back with the actors and director about the acting process. WCT is looking forward to partnering with even more organizations in the new year!

New Education Initiatives

WCT has begun several new educational initiatives to encourage, support and develop creative artistic talent in youth and adults.

WCT now gives away an annual scholarship of \$300 to any student enrolled in a college and has volunteered at WCT in one way or another. WCT had several applicants for this this year's scholarship and was

pleased to award the scholarship to Krista Nelson, a WSU student who recently performed in WCT's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Another WSU student (and WCT board member), Leslie Jacobson recently completed an apprenticeship for her role as Publicity Coordinator in conjunction with WSU's Co-

operative Education program.

Finally WCT recently revised its apprenticeship selection and education process for directors resulting in an increase in apprentices for the season, with apprentices in six of its productions this season. Three director apprentices from the 2012-2013 season were selected to direct shows for the 2013-2014 season.

WCT Completes Capital Improvement Projects



The replacement of siding for our storage shed is one of several capital improvement projects completed thanks to donations from patrons.

In the past year, WCT has been busy completing several capital improvement projects at the theatre. Largely due to the fundraising efforts of Cindy Pursell, Fundraising Coordinator and WCT board member and from donations from patrons like you, the theatre was able to complete the following projects:

- New vinyl fence
- New sound system
- Refinished doors to all theatre entrances

- New siding for large storage shed
- New house lighting and relocation of light switch
- New laser printer for printing programs
- Replaced roof overhang in back of theatre

Current capital improvement projects in progress including the replacement and glazing of all the windows in the theatre.

"I saw Brighton Beach Memoirs" last night and I can't stop thinking about it!! Best Show. Ever. You guys did an amazing job -- the whole cast was terrific! I wish last night hadn't been the end of this run -- I would tell every person I know to go see this amazing show!

Congratulations!!!!!! "

- Kelly Diane Boylan
(from WCT Facebook page)

Board Plans for the Future

Over the past year, the Board of Directors has been busy doing some organizational changes, in order to solidify our organizational structure, and to assist in filling out grant applications. In 2012, the Board approved the first set of new bylaws in many years. We continued to amend these bylaws this year to keep them up-to-date.

In early January, the Board of Di-

rectors approved a mission statement, a vision statement, and a set of values. We also identified a series of smart goals to grow the organization, and a strategic plan to meet those goals.

The Board also formalized a separation between the Play Selection Committee and the Director Selection Committee, and introduced conflict-of-interest policies into

both committees. We added a House Manager position, staffed by a Board Member, to give structure and stability to the Box Office procedures for each performance.

Late this year, we began work on written policies and procedures for topics such alcohol and non-discrimination. Work continues in this area to finalize and approve these policies.

WCT Volunteers Recognized for Their Efforts

Included in the recently adopted values by WCT is the value statement: "Volunteers - We depend on volunteers for everything we do.". This could not be more evident in the past year. WCT had approximately 600 volunteers involved in the 2013-2014 season.

In response to the overwhelming support from our volunteers, WCT

held a Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque in August . Over 40 volunteers attended and a special thank you was given by WCT Board president Ben Blankley.

WCT was also honored to have WCT volunteer Cindy Pursell selected by the Mary Jane Teall Theatre Committee as Volunteer of the Year. Pursell was nominated by the

WCT board for her tremendous efforts with securing donations for several major capital improvement projects at the theatre as well as coordinating United Way volunteer work days and her overall volunteerism at WCT.



Some of the volunteers who attended WCT's Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission Statement:

The mission of Wichita Community Theatre is to be an all-volunteer organization that promotes quality, affordable live theatre and informal learning opportunities.

Vision Statement

To be the premier performing arts organization in South Central Kansas

Values

Professional Ethics – We behave in a professional, ethical manner.

Respect – We respect diverse ideas and people.

Audience – We are mindful of our audience when making decisions.

Volunteers – We depend on volunteers for everything we do.

Creativity – We foster artistic expression.

Safety – We require emotional and physical safety for our audience and volunteers.

Fun – We promote play.

WCT Board of Directors

Executive Board

President: Ben Blankley

Vice President: Casey Eubank

Treasurer: Cheryl Pearce

Secretary: Mary Tush-Green

Technical Director: Jane Tanner

At-Large Board Members

Reader's Theatre Coordinator: Michael Criss

Education Coordinator: Jessica Fisher

Buildings & Grounds Coordinator: Julie Jacobson

Marketing/Publicity Coordinator: Leslie Jacobson

Volunteer Coordinator: Heather Jewell

Cashier: Crystal Meek

Fundraising Coordinator: Cindy Pursell

Set Construction Coordinator: Robert Ryder

Social Media/Online Coordinator: Mark Schuster

Partnerships Coordinator: Meagan Smith

Special Events Coordinator: Kevin Sowers

Grants Coordinator: Mitzi Sullivan

Quartermaster: Glenn Williams

Why Should YOU Support WCT?

Wichita Community Theatre is tremendously grateful to the wonderful support our community has given us over the past seven decades. Because of you, WCT has continued to thrive in bringing you the quality dramas, comedies, and musicals that you love. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely primarily on the patronage of our theatrical family. Wichita Community Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to become a patron, please fill out the information below and mail to: Wichita Community Theatre
258 N. Fountain, Wichita KS 67208

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YES! I would like to contribute to
Wichita Community Theatre!**

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Please make your check or money order to
"Wichita Community Theatre".

Wichita Community Theatre Donors

ANGEL (\$1,000-\$2,500):

Anonymous, Mitzi Sullivan

PATRON (\$500- \$999):

The Wedding of Liz Anderson and Ben Blankley, Robert Ryder, Boeing Company, Bette P. Thomas, Patricia Crawley, Michael Bayouth, Sheryl Caryl

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (\$250-\$499):

Don and Elsie Steelberg, Thomas and Terry Glover, Chris and Jessica Fisher, Kerry Lynn Friesen Memorial Fund, Judy Naylor, Michael Hutton, Sheryl Caryl, Larson and Company

PRODUCER (\$100-\$249):

Doreen L. Womack, Nadine Williams, KP O’Crawley, Corky Harding, Wayne & Jo Sandra Howdeshell, Dean Mitchell, Larry Hartley, Mary Jane Teall Theatre Awards, Mary Cole, Kenneth V. & Betty J. Hemmen, Michael & Lucinda Blackburn, Glenda McNew, Jo Ellen Ryder

DIRECTOR (\$50-\$99):

Ann Yoder and Front Row Center, Judy Naylor, Mary Lou Phipps-Winfrey, II Vicino

STAGE MANAGER (\$25-\$49):

0.5 Fast Transportation Systems, Dave and Rita Severt, Robertson, Schrag, Joyce Markley, Anonymous, Bruce Blankley, Holly Yip, Anne Blankley, Nikki Nethercott-Niermann, Cindy & Bryan Stauffer