



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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*The mission of the Toledo Cultural Arts Center at the Valentine Theatre is to produce and provide cultural and performing arts experiences for diverse audiences of all ages, to enhance the quality of the cultural and economic life of the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Northwestern Ohio and Southeast Michigan.*

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**Joshua Smith**

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Development & VSD Coordinator

**BOARD & STAFF for the period**

**July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022**

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Welcome to the 2021-2022 Valentine Theatre Annual Report

*It's Great to be Back!*

After 18 months of being shuttered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was thrilling to once again welcome patrons and community arts partners back home to the Valentine! This season we were off and running in September with an original production by Toledo Ballet followed quickly by Toledo Opera's stunning performances of "Il Traviatore," featuring soprano Leah Crocetto of the Metropolitan Opera. We opened our Broadway Series in November with the 25th Anniversary Farewell Tour of "Rent." With sold-out and nearly sold-out performances by the Midtown Men, "South Pacific," "Beautiful," starring Toledo's own Sara Shepard, and "Jersey Boys," this season proved to be one of our best, both financially and artistically. We are so thankful to our patrons and sponsors who helped the Valentine stay strong during the dark months of the pandemic. It's great to see patrons milling about our lobbies and sitting in our theatre once again!

Some more highlights from this season included a terrific encore performance by Grammy-nominated "Black Violin" featuring Wil B on viola and Kev Marcus on violin. The duo, who first performed here in 2019, sold out well in advance and had patrons up on their feet dancing for the entire concert! Another highly anticipated return engagement was The Ten Tenors from Australia. Unfortunately, two of the tenors tested positive for COVID just before showtime, so it ended up being The Eight Tenors instead! A career-first for them. Fortunately, our patrons were completely understanding and loved the show!

While all of our Broadway, Pick 4, Silver Screen, and Children's Series were live and in-person, we opted to offer a mix of virtual and live performances for Valentine School Days. From September to December teachers and homeschool parents could access virtual performances free from our website. Starting in January, we offered live performances which included a moving rendition of "A Raisin in the Sun" by National Players, "I Have a Dream" by Virginia Rep, Ballet Theatre of Toledo's "The Little Mermaid, and "Charlotte's Web." In another COVID first, the very popular "The Pout Pout Fish" was canceled because the entire cast tested positive the morning of the performance. Staff quickly called every school for the sold-out shows to alert them before students boarded their buses. We hope to reschedule "The Pout Pout Fish" for another VSD season.

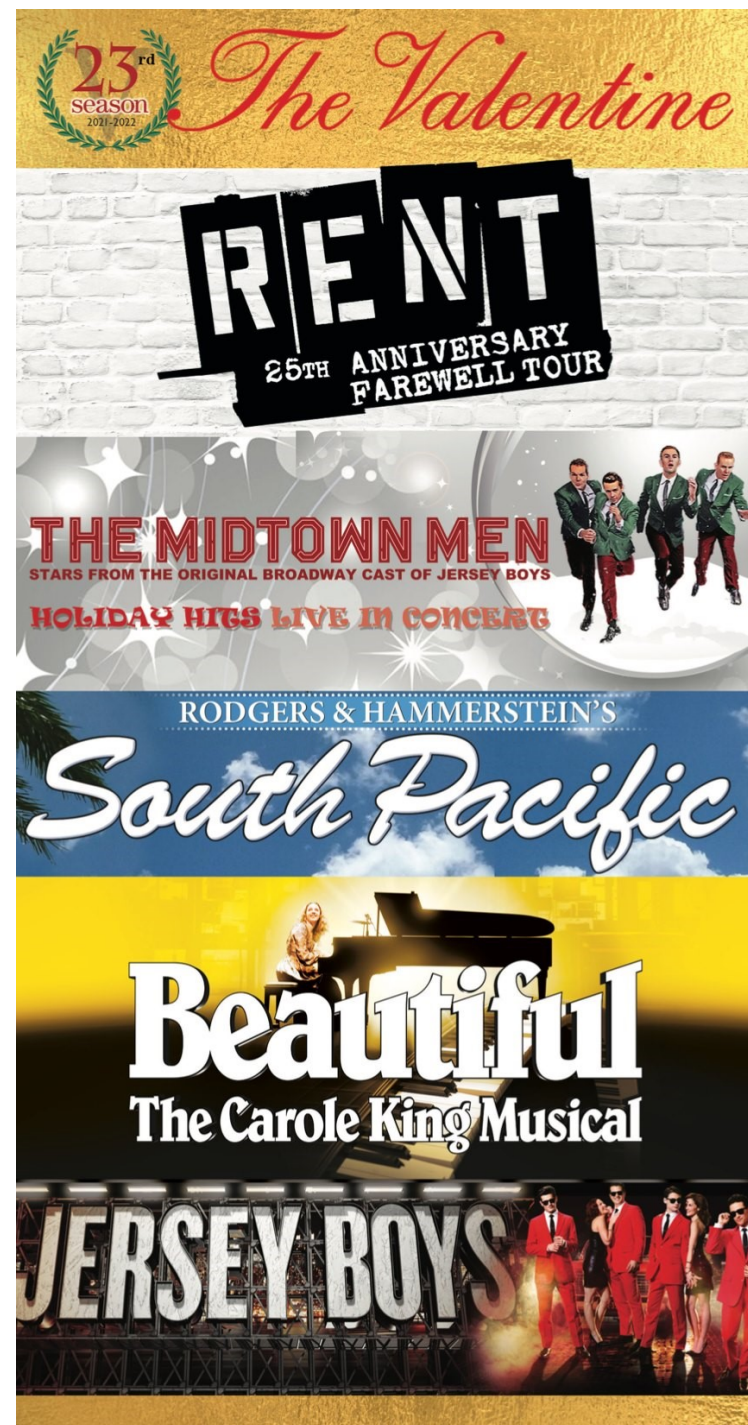
In March we welcomed the incomparable Vanessa Williams to our stage for an intimate night of songs and stories for our annual Gala. Broadway pianist Seth Rudetsky of Sirius XM's "On Broadway" accompanied her as she sang many of her Broadway hits, including a beautiful rendition of "The Colors of the Wind" from Disney's "Pocohantas."

Finally, I would be remiss not to extend a sincere thank-you to the retired nurses who volunteered their time before every Broadway and Pick 4 show to administer COVID tests to union employees and all backstage crew. A sincere thank-you to Susan Beasecker, Anne Helm, Susan McCloud-Coyle, and Barbara Stengle (pictured at right).



*Jori Jex*

Executive Director





# TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE VALENTINE



1. The Toledo Cultural Arts Center at the Valentine Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, arts organization whose mission is to produce and provide cultural and performing arts experiences for diverse audiences of all ages, and to enhance the quality of the cultural and economic life of the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Northwestern Ohio, and Southeastern Michigan. All donations to the Valentine are tax-deductible.
2. Through Valentine School Days, Weekend Children's Series, and student performances by partner arts organizations, the Valentine enriches the lives of more than 15,000 children every year.
3. The Valentine Theatre opened Christmas Day 1895. Today it presents national touring productions of Broadway shows, award-winning musical artists, up-and-coming productions, and \$5 classic movies in its 900-seat Main Stage as well as locally produced plays, dramatic readings, and monthly improv shows in its 100-seat intimate Black Box Studio A.
4. The Valentine Theatre is the cultural hub of downtown Toledo, serving as the home stage for the Toledo Opera, Toledo Jazz Orchestra, Ballet Theatre of Toledo, and the venue of choice for the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Ballet, as well as area high schools and dozens of arts groups from throughout the region. Attendance is about 67,000 per year.
5. The Historic Valentine Theatre is also utilized as an event space. Its Grand Lobby, Historic Lobby, Founders Room, Studio A, and Main Theatre can host receptions, weddings, and corporate events.

- ♥ The Valentine Theatre received an \$8,000 grant from the Toledo Rotary Foundation to replace flooring in both the Founder's Room and the Sound Booth. The flooring upgrade in the Founder's Room is part of a larger effort to make the space more multi-purpose, including serving as a retreat space for patrons who are experiencing sensory overload.
- ♥ The Valentine staff filmed, edited and produced several new StoryTime episodes, highlighting Toledo's diversity. Our very own Ruth Kille read "Lunar New Year" and "I Dream of Popo," stories about Taiwanese culture. "Yo Soy Muslim," and "The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family," were read by two local Muslim women. And, Valentine security officer and former Toledo Police woman, Berna Guy, read "Let's Meet a Police Officer."
- ♥ The Valentine Theatre was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Ohio Development Agencies for COVID-related losses.
- ♥ The Valentine offered complimentary tickets and transportation assistance to 2,000+ low-income students from Toledo Public Schools to attend Valentine School Days.
- ♥ Attendance at a Valentine Theatre performance or event was more than 33,000, including more than 6,800 students.
- ♥ We hosted 78 performances on our Main Stage, 17 events, and our technical staff completely resurfaced the Main Stage theatre.
- ♥ The Toledo Rep presented 8 performances of "The Legend of Georgia McBride" in Studio A.

### What our patrons are saying about the Valentine



*The best place in Toledo for live shows, especially musicals!! 5-star Google review*

*Black Violin concert was perfection. We had an amazing time. Well organized and easy to navigate through the theater. 5-star Google review*

*Beautiful structure with very comfortable seating. Productions are always high quality. The convenience of having top-notch performances locally is underrated. The Valentine Theater is a true treasure. 5-star Google review*

*I think exposing students to live productions is so important. Students not only learn something new related to the subject matter of the play, but they also learn how to properly behave in this setting. It also teaches them that there are lots of ways to experience art outside the cyber world! Teacher at VSD performance*

*This interpretation [of Charlotte's Web] was absolutely FANTASTIC! Please pass along our gratitude to the cast and crew. As always, The Valentine's staff was welcoming and helpful. Our experience at School Days is always wonderful. Teacher at VSD performance*

# HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022



Black Violin in Concert



# PROGRAMMING 2021-2022



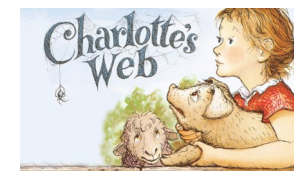
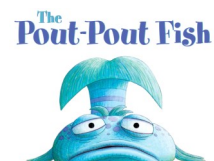
## BROADWAY SERIES



## PICK 4 SERIES



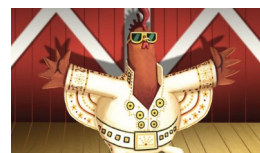
## CHILDREN'S SERIES



## SILVER SCREEN SERIES

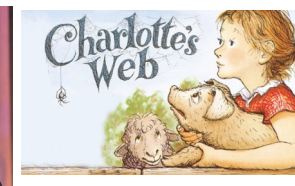


## VALENTINE SCHOOL DAYS



## Virtual shows

## Live, in-person productions



# Virtual PROGRAMMING 2021-2022



*Yolanda Melendez of the Toledo Islamic Academy reading  
Yo Soy Muslim for StoryTime*



## STORYTIME AT THE VALENTINE

*Community leaders reading their favorite stories or stories which reflect what they do in the community. We now have 32 episodes in our website library!*

*Don't Worry Bee Happy* — Chris Stack, Actor

*Poppleton* — Patrick Boyer, Actor

*Rescue Vehicles* — Mike Bell, former Mayor, Ohio State Fire Marshal

*Stellaluna* — Julie Malkin, Lucas County Children Services

*Horton Hatches the Egg* — Tom Palmer, Attorney

*What a Wonderful World* — Ramona Collins, Singer

*Red Sings from the Treetops* — Clare Gorski, Valentine Theatre Board Chair

*A Bunny in the Ballet* — Dr. Traci Watkins, physician and Toledo Ballet alum

*When Marian Sang* — Eboné Waweru, Toledo Opera

*Ron's Big Mission* — Brett Collins, Art Tatum Center

*Kindness Starts with You* — Donna Owens, former Mayor

*Miss Maple's Seeds* — Fran DeWine, Ohio's First Lady

*Zin!Zin!Zin! A Violin* — Merwin Siu, Toledo Symphony

*Ella Sets the Stage* — Paul Causman, Toledo Rep

*Hot Rod Hamster* — Jim White, former Chair Valentine Theatre Board

*Library Lion* — Charlene Gilbert, Dean UT

*If Kids Ruled the World* — Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

*A Visit to the Vet* — Dr. Dillon, Veterinarian

*Pete the Cat Checks out the Library* — Jason Kucsma, Toledo-Lucas County Pubic Library

*Harlem* — Dom Glover, dancer

*Wings* — Cecilia Adams, Toledo City Council

*Meema the Lemur Becomes a Ballerina* — Nigel Burgoine, Ballet Theatre of Toledo

*Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — Jim Stengle, Valentine Board Chair

*Right Now I am Fine* — Tina Wozniak, Lucas County Commissioners

*The World Needs Who You were Made to Be* — Lyn Casye, K-100 Radio DJ

*The Rabbit Listened* — Anna Toney, Leadership Toledo

*Firefighters* — Mike Bell, former Mayor, State Fire Marshall

*Right Now I am Kind* — Donna Owens, former Mayor

*The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hajib and Family* — Aalaa Eldeib, Sylvania Children's Center

*Yo Soy Muslim* — Yolanda Melendez, Toledo Islamic Academy

*Boys Dance* — Michael Lang, Toledo Dance Instructor

*I Dream of Popo* — Ruth Kille, Valentine Theatre

*Lunar New Year* — Ruth Kille, Valentine Theatre

*Let's Meet a Police Officer* — Berna Guy, retired Toledo Police Officer

# Valentine School Days



About 10,000 students annually attend Valentine School Days

## History

Valentine School Days (VSD) continues the rich tradition of presenting educational theatre productions by professional touring companies. VSD brings to life classic literature and beloved children's stories for students in grades Pre-K-12.

## Common Core Standards

VSD is the only local educational theatre outreach program which aligns with Ohio Department of Education Common Core Standards.

## What Teachers are Saying about Valentine School Days

*This was an outstanding experience for my 8th grade class*

*Students were able to experience theater...which was new and exciting for many of our students. They loved the experience!*

*My students always look forward to attending productions at the Valentine Theatre.*

*It was an opportunity for students to see the abstract concept of history come alive.*



**~4,000**

Students and educators attended in-person VSD shows



**> 50%**

Of students are from Title I school districts



**100%**

Of responding educators rate the educational and artistic quality of VSD shows as good or excellent



**100%**

Of responding educators agree that live theatrical productions complement teaching of language arts



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**The Valentine Theatre is honored to partner with numerous nonprofit arts, education, social service, and charitable organizations in Lucas County and Northwest Ohio, as well as a host of other businesses.**

## LIST OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

20 Under 40  
ADDY Awards  
Adopt America Network – A Home for You  
Aline-Underhill-Orten Foundation  
The Andersons, Inc.  
Anspach-Friedman Foundation  
Ballet Theatre of Toledo  
Elsie and Harry Baumker Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Black Diamond  
The Blade and 13abc  
Buckeye Broadband  
Butler Capital  
CAD Graphics  
Camp Courageous and the Arc of NWO  
Catholic Diocese of Toledo  
Central Catholic High School  
The Chess Club at Jones Junior High  
CommunicA  
Courtney's Dance  
Dana Foundation  
Dance Center of NW Ohio  
Dolly Parton Imagination Library  
Edward Lamb Foundation

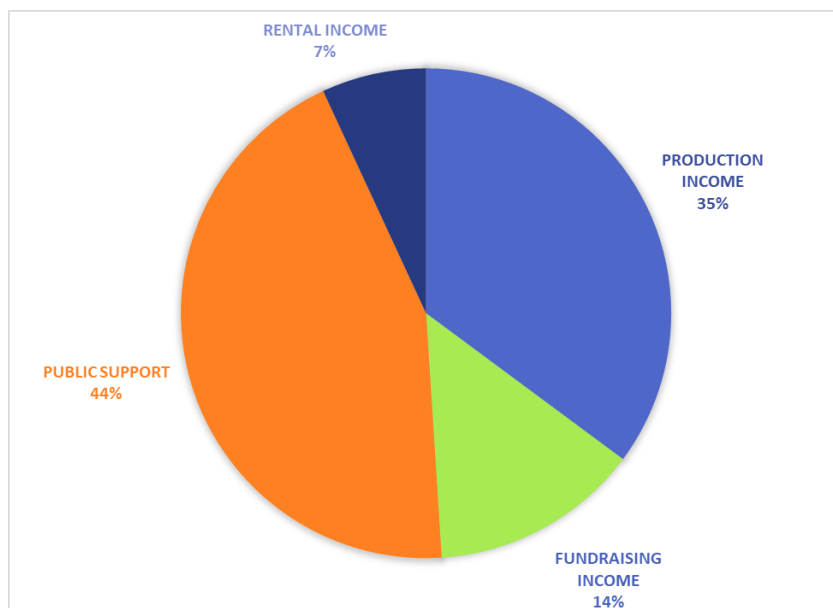
Family House  
France Stone Foundation  
Friendly Center  
Georgio's Café International  
Glass City Improv  
Gorski Family Foundation  
Gretchen A. Zyndorf Educational Series  
Herbert and Carolyn Metzger Foundation  
Huntington Bank  
iHeart Media  
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo  
KeyBank  
Lamar  
Long on Design  
Lucas County Children's Services (CSB)  
Lucas County Commissioners  
MailWorks II  
Marathon Classic  
Maumee Bay State Park  
Medical Mutual of Ohio  
Northwood Local Schools  
Ohio Arts Council  
Ohio Council of Community Schools  
Ohio Development Services Agency

Owens Corning, Inc.  
The Padua Center  
Partners in Education  
PNC Bank  
ProMedica  
Renaissance Toledo Hotel  
Rudolph Libbe, Inc.  
St. John's Jesuit High School  
St. Ursula High School  
Scholastic Books  
Christine Senack  
Shindler Neff, LLP  
Shumaker Loop & Kendrick  
Signature Bank  
Simon & Schuster  
SJS Investment Services  
Spartan Chemical  
TEGNA Foundation  
Theater League  
Toledo Opera  
TACL — Toledo Area Cultural Leaders  
TAPA—Toledo Alliance for the Performing Arts (*Toledo Symphony Orchestra & Toledo Ballet*)  
Greater Toledo Community Foundation

Toledo History Museum  
Toledo Jazz Festival  
Toledo Jazz Orchestra  
Toledo Jr. Bar Association  
Toledo Public Schools  
Toledo Repertoire Theatre  
Toledo Rotary Club Foundation  
Toledo School for the Arts  
United Way Women's Initiative  
University of Toledo  
Waite Brand Foundation  
Walter E. Terhune Fund  
Waterford Bank  
Washington Local Schools  
Jim White Family  
Yark Automotive

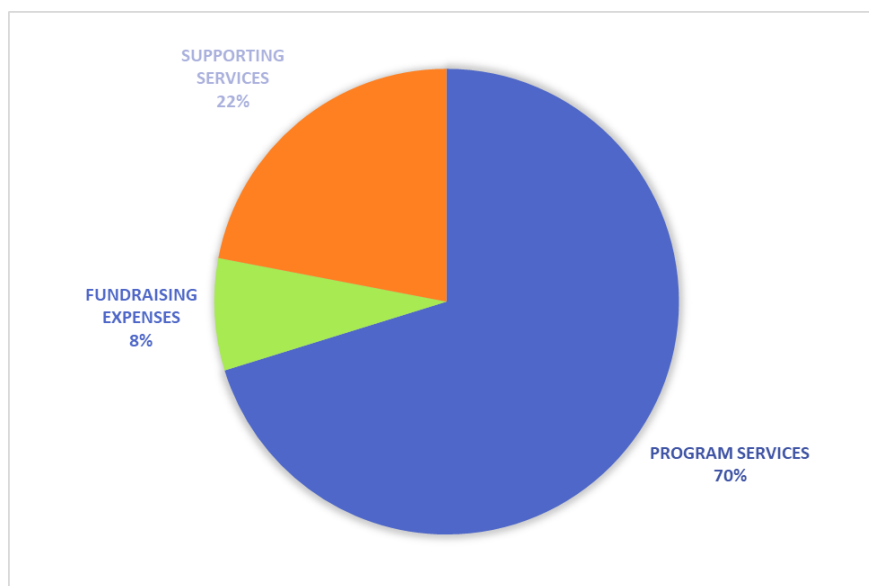
## OPERATING REVENUE BY SOURCE—FY 2022

**\$2.42**  
MILLION



## OPERATING EXPENSES BY SOURCE—FY 2022

**\$2.21**  
MILLION



# ECONOMIC IMPACT

Based on the calculator developed by the Americans for the Arts, the economic impact of the Valentine Theatre is significant.

**\$3.2 million**

IS THE TOTAL IMPACT OF THE VALENTINE  
THEATRE ON THE TOLEDO METRO AREA.

This sum represents the total dollars spent by the Valentine Theatre and its audiences, including event-related spending by audiences, which is estimated using average dollars spent per person by arts event attendees in similarly populated communities.



*Valentine Theatre*

410 Adams Street ♦ Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 242-2787 ♦ [ValentineTheatre.com](http://ValentineTheatre.com)