

# 2020/2021 Community Impact Report



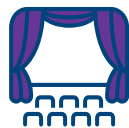
**Performing Arts Services**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD



**UIS Ticket Office**

# Highlights from 2020/2021



## OVERALL ATTENDANCE/VIEWS

- **23,296** total audience members



## TOP 10 EVENTS BY ATTENDANCE

- **5,063** – Staley Class Acts: *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad*
- **2,787** – Staley Class Acts: *Chicken Dance*
- **2,335** – UIS Commencement
- **1,756** – Staley Class Acts: *Anne of Green Gables*
- **1,066** – ISO Sunday at Six Series – Percussion Ensemble
- **1,057** – TEDx Uofl Springfield: *Bridging the Gap*
- **1,039** – *We Stream a Little Christmas Recital*
- **889** – ISO – *Around the Town: Souvenir de Florence*
- **717** – UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *An Evening of Song: From Schubert to Verdi*
- **714** – Springfield PrideFest



## VENUE UTILIZATION

*Includes days when the venue is in use for a specific event.*

- **24** Sangamon Auditorium use days
- **130** UIS Studio Theatre use days
- **3,096** minutes live streamed  
51 hours and 36 minutes



## UIS PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- **9,606** participants in Virtual Staley Class Acts
  - o 3 virtual shows offered free of charge to all area schools
- **2** UIS Performing Arts Education Connections produced virtual recitals
  - o 42 area music students featured



## TICKET OFFICE

*UIS Ticket Office numbers include all sales transactions occurring during the fiscal year and is not reflective of sales for events held during the fiscal year. Reported numbers also include non-UIS Performing Arts Center events such as ticket sales for The Muni.*

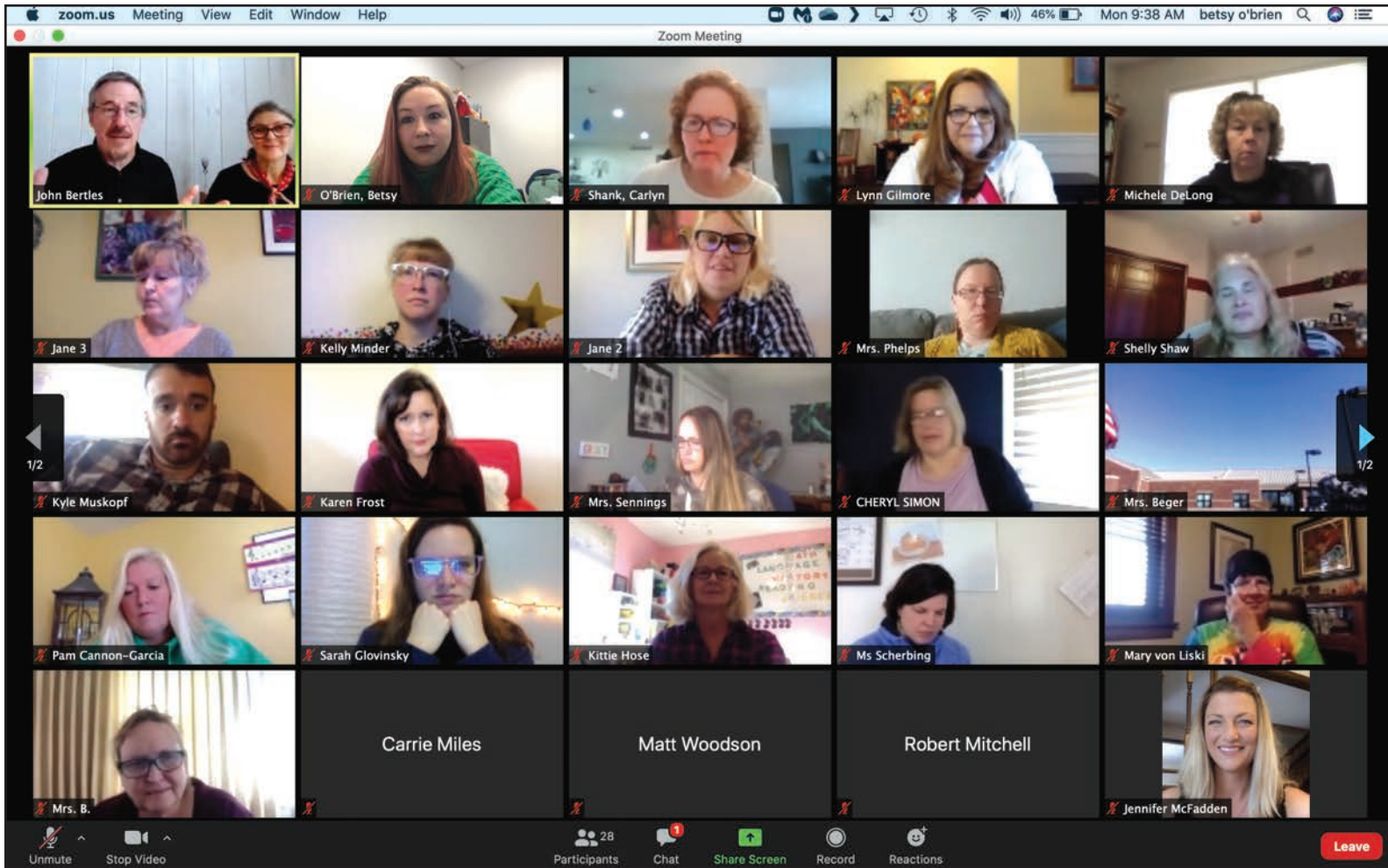
- **5,531** tickets issued
- **\$326,948.15** in ticket sales



## FRIENDS OF UIS PERFORMING ARTS

- **\$553,465** (includes special gift(s) to endowment fund(s))
- **199** donor households/businesses

# Table of Contents



UIS Performing Arts Education Connections facilitates the virtual workshop "Taking Your Program from Live to Live Stream" with Springfield District 186 teachers.

In this 2020/2021 Community Impact Report, we are happy to share with you a summary of the exciting activities of UIS Performing Arts Services, which encompasses the UIS Performing Arts Center (Sangamon Auditorium and the UIS Studio Theatre), UIS Performing Arts Education Connections, FRIENDS of UIS Performing Arts Center, and the UIS Ticket Office programs.

<b>Events in 2020/2021</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Home for Community Events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Facility Upgrades</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sangamon Auditorium at 40</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>UIS Performing Arts Education Connections</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>FRIENDS of UIS Performing Arts Center</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>UIS Performing Arts Services Staff</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>23</b>

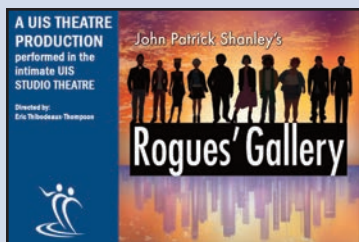
# Events in 2020/2021

Though the COVID-19 global pandemic caused a shutdown of all large gatherings throughout the 2020/2021 year, it did not shut down the performing arts. Through technical innovation, creative thinking, and dedicated staff, 39 events were held in the UIS Performing Arts Center this season! We look forward to welcoming guests back inside our doors next season, as well as learning from our successes this year.

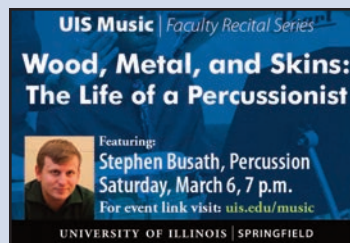
## Date(s) 2020

## Event

- 10/3 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *Something Old, Something New*
- 10/10 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *The Unaccompanied Clarinet*
- 11/6-8, 13-15 UIS Theatre – *Rogues' Gallery*
- 11/16, 12/4 Education Connections Workshop – *Taking Your Program from Live to Live Stream~*
- 11/21 Dussehra 2020
- 12/4 UIS Music / UIS Community Music School Solo Recital
- 12/5 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *SparkNotes: Programmatic Pieces for Oboe*
- 12/6 Illinois Symphony Orchestra Sunday at Six Recital Series – Percussion Ensemble



- 12/18 *We Stream A Little Christmas Recital*
- 2021**
- 1/20-21, 1/25 PNC Grow Up Great Classroom Visits – *Because~*
- 2/1-28 Staley Class Acts: *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad+*
- 2/13 Illinois Symphony Orchestra – *Around the Town: Souvenir de Florence*
- 2/20 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *An Evening of Song: From Schubert to Verdi*
- 3/6 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *Wood, Metal, and Skins: The Life of a Percussionist*



**Date(s)** **Event**  
 3/13 Illinois Symphony Orchestra – *Around the Town: Trout Quintet*

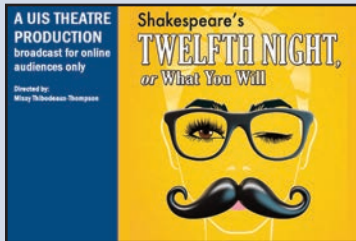


3/20 TEDx UofISpringfield: Bridging The Gap<sup>^</sup>



4/1-6/30 Staley Class Acts: *Anne of Green Gables*+

4/1-6/30 Staley Class Acts: *Chicken Dance*+



4/16-18, 4/22-24 UIS Theatre – *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*

4/23 UIS Band Concert\*



4/26 UIS Athletics – A Night of Stars

4/27 *Anne of Green Gables*

4/28-29 PNC Grow Up Great Classroom Visits – *Chicken Dance*~

4/30 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *Jazz Tunes from Springfield to Serbia*

5/1 UIS Music Showcase Concert

5/2 UIS Orchestra Concert\*



5/6 *Chicken Dance*

5/8 UIS Music Faculty Recital Series – *Rhapsody and Romance*

5/13-14 UIS Commencement\*



5/15 Springfield PrideFest<sup>^</sup>

5/26 Springfield Student Musical Recital

Unless otherwise noted, all events live streamed from UIS Studio Theatre

\* Live streamed from Sangamon Auditorium with a socially distanced audience

<sup>^</sup> Live streamed from UIS Studio Theatre with a socially distanced audience

+ On Demand live stream performance

~ Virtual event

# Home for Community Events

## UIS Music

The UIS Music program presented eight streamed events in the UIS Studio Theatre during 2020-2021. The Studio Theatre events ranged from faculty recitals by a host of adjunct faculty to student solo events and a faculty jazz ensemble performance. Even without an audience present, the “live” element of streaming generated an adrenaline and intensity for these events for the music faculty and the Performing Arts Center production staff.

At the end of the spring semester, with the approval of the campus’ COVID response committee, UIS Music was able to present concerts by the UIS Band and UIS Orchestra for invited audiences of 50 in Sangamon Auditorium. It was refreshing to be able to work so closely with UIS Music faculty to bring about the first in-person performance events on the Sangamon Auditorium stage since the March 2020 shutdown.



UIS Music student playing the violin during a performance.



UIS Music student playing the flute.



UIS Music Orchestra Concert

## UIS Theatre

The UIS Theatre program also undertook the challenge of moving their fall and spring productions to an online streaming format. Still utilizing the UIS Studio Theatre, the fall production, *Rogues’ Gallery* by John Patrick Shanley, is written as a series of monologues and was an excellent choice as a production that would enable social distancing and still allow actors to work their craft. Camera shots were carefully planned with the Office of Electronic Media executing the camera work and the online audience was treated to the *Saturday Night Live*-type scene changes between monologues.

with stage manager and UIS Performing Arts Center staff member David Hecht managing the technical experience from the Studio Theatre tech booth. Some actors were on-site, some remote, but each had their own green screen, camera and internet access to bring them into the process. A completely different format from the fall, this production also enabled a safe execution of theater for acting students and community members as well as the virtual audiences.

For the spring production of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, actors participated in a Zoom-style format, but



UIS Theatre production crew running camera system during live streaming



UIS Theatre performing *Rogues’ Gallery* virtually

## TEDx U of I Springfield

The inaugural conference of the TEDx U of I Springfield student group was held March 20, 2021 in the UIS Studio Theatre. As an affiliate of the ted.com media organization that posts video talks online for free distribution under the slogan “ideas worth spreading,” the UIS organization selected ten speakers from both inside and outside UIS to present talks with ideas under the heading “Bridging the Gap”. The UIS PAC production team worked diligently with the

student group over several months to create the kind of production values that would support the thoughtful content of the local speakers and the brand of ted.com overall.

Only a small audience was invited to be present on-site to support the speakers while most of the audience participated virtually. As is an important part of a TED event, videos of the talks were preserved individually and can be viewed at <https://tedxuofispringfield.com/speakers>.



TEDx speakers

Other virtual events produced and streamed from the UIS Studio Theatre:

- Illinois Symphony Orchestra –throughout the year, three small ensemble events were streamed from the Studio
- PrideFest –the annual initiative of Springfield’s Phoenix Center, the LGBTQ resource center, held a virtual event from the Studio Theatre in place of their usual live festival
- A Night of Stars –the annual awards ceremony of UIS Athletics was streamed virtually
- Dussehra 2020 –the UIS Indian Student Association celebrated the festival by streaming traditional elements.
- Songs of Hope –an initiative of U of I President Tim Killeen

In summer 2020, UIS Performing Arts Center Director Bryan Rives was asked by U of I President Tim Killeen through then-UIS Chancellor Susan Koch to produce some inspirational musical videos to share with the university communities and beyond, to serve as inspiration and hope through the COVID-19

pandemic. UIS Music faculty helped identify vocal students who would be a good fit for this initiative and Performing Arts Center staff crafted the production of the videos with the assistance of the Office of Electronic Media.

*“These pieces are intended to connect us to each other, and to our universities in a time when circumstances continue to often keep us apart. I hope you find them as uplifting and inspiring as I do.” – Tim*

The selections can be viewed at:  
[www.uillinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelD=1462302](http://www.uillinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelD=1462302)



Joy Anna performing her song for the Songs of Hope initiative.

# Facility Upgrades

## UIS Studio Theater: Live Streaming Capabilities Added

The intimate UIS Studio Theatre became the primary-use venue for the UIS Performing Arts Center during the COVID-19 pandemic as large gatherings in Sangamon Auditorium were prohibited. But to reach as wide of an audience as possible, new technology was required.

In September of 2020, new camera systems and computers were installed. This allowed events to be live streamed to audiences watching safely at home. The new system is comprised of four (4) colors cameras, all with pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) capabilities, to cover all the action on stage. The camera inputs are processed using a dedicated computer running

Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) and live streamed on the UISpac.com website and Facebook pages routed through the Vimeo video hosting service.

The UIS Performing Arts Center production staff embraced the new technology quickly as they suddenly added the role of broadcast technician to their performance repertoire.

This new live steaming technology was made possible by donations to the UIS Performing Arts Center and resulted in over 50 hours of entertainment for UIS Performing Arts Center patrons.



Illinois Symphony Orchestra (ISO) members socially distancing in the UIS Studio Theatre during a live stream.



Staff member David Hecht working sound board during an ISO streamed performance.



Staff members Carly Shank and Joe Taylor controlling camera system during an ISO streamed performance.



Staff members Joe Taylor and Craig Norman controlling the OBS software during an ISO streamed performance.



## Sangamon Auditorium: Safety Inspections & Maintenance

What do you do with your time when a large performance venue is unable to be utilized due to a world-wide pandemic? It turns out that this is a perfect opportunity to conduct safety inspections of all critical systems. It is also a great time to finally get around to that long “when we have time” list of things to work on.

The UIS Performing Arts Center production staff was able this year to tackle a long list of items that somehow always got put on the backburner. This included replacing some hardware items on the stage rigging systems, conducting an extensive inventory of tools and equipment, deep cleaning various backstage areas, inspecting curtains for tears and other damage, and meeting virtually with equipment vendors to research and plan for future venue upgrades.



Stage Foreman Joe Taylor working on the rigging system.



Stagehand David Hecht adjusting lighting on the cat walk.

# Sangamon Auditorium at 40

## Marking the 40th Anniversary of Sangamon Auditorium

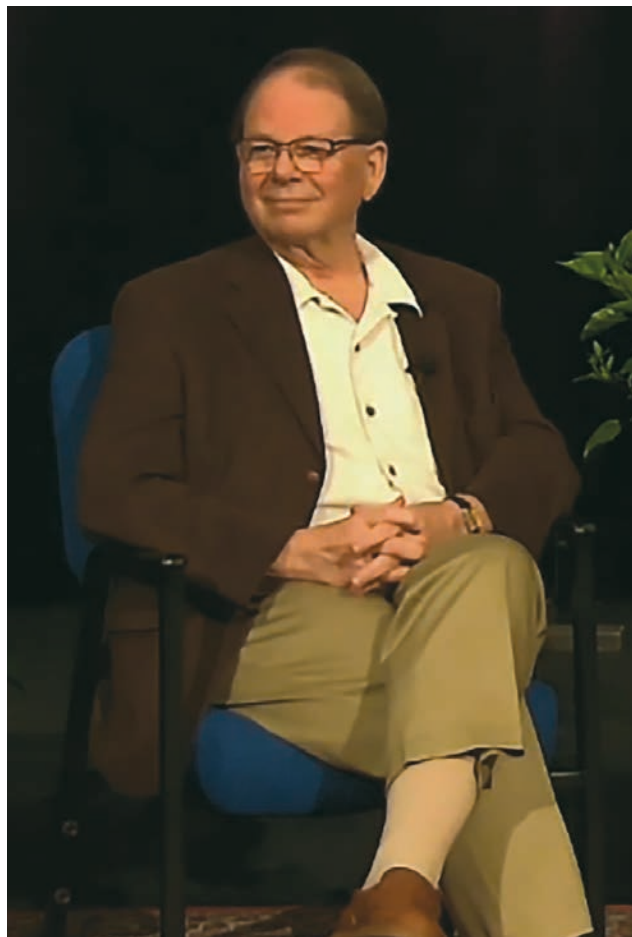
“On February 21, 1981, Sangamon Auditorium was sold out for its inaugural public offering starring Hal Holbrook in *Mark Twain, Tonight!* An evening of such anticipation topped the charts; Springfield was about to explode on the central Illinois cultural map!

After years of political maneuvering to seek funding, as well as public doubt and institutional skepticism, Springfield’s wish for a formidable performing arts facility became reality, to be housed at the recently birthed Sangamon State University. Finally, a home for the symphony, the ballet, a class venue for community performing arts and for public assembly endeavors. All would contribute to an arts collaboration in the latter 20th Century in Lincoln’s Hometown. It was a noble challenge led by local community leaders, a stellar political achievement of funding and eventually it would be a bold regional influence in the competitive cultural and entertainment arena.

As the first Director of Sangamon Auditorium, my wife Ronée and I arrived in Springfield in 1980, to open the new Public Affairs Center which housed the 2000 seat venue. I still say it is one of the most enduring and workable low-bid projects the State of Illinois has seen: a formidable array of architects, engineers, contractors, outfitters and workers collaborated to produce a true gem for central Illinois; in many ways a miracle birth. I would like to acknowledge the many players in the daily operation in the ensuing years to include the hundreds of volunteer ushers, stagehands, full and part-time staff, and many donors who enabled an edge of success so seriously needed in sustaining a viable performance facility such as this.

It was my pleasure to be a part of this experiment linking our greater Springfield community with the youngster Sangamon State University. Though it’s not so unusual in our national landscape of performing arts centers to be housed at colleges and universities, I credit community leaders who marshalled solely State resources to fund the project. Their vision not only gave me a job (thank you) but fulfilled a community longing for a world-class performance venue!

Among the thousands of public and private performances on the Sangamon Auditorium stage before I retired in 2004, Hal Holbrook returned four more times to share the wit and wisdom of Mark Twain. And on behalf of all the performers especially, I want to thank the many varied audiences for giving them the applause they so artfully deserve.”



-- John Dale Kennedy, Director Sangamon Auditorium, Retired

## 40 Years of Sangamon Auditorium Timeline

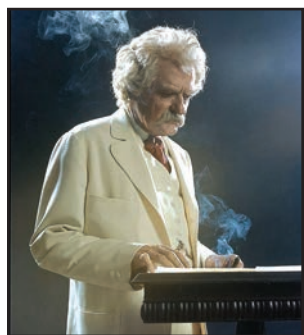
Date	Event
1979	Construction of the Sangamon State University (SSU) Public Affairs Center was adjusted; plans for a large lecture hall were replaced with plans for a 2,000-seat Auditorium
	
Spring 1980	John Dale Kennedy hired as first Manager of the SSU Public Affairs Center
	
February 20, 1981	SSU Auditorium held its premiere event, a sellout performance of Hal Halbrook's one-man show <i>Mark Twain Tonight!</i>
March 10, 1981	Public Affairs Center dedicated, including a performance by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, whose leadership had been instrumental in getting the Auditorium constructed
November 7, 1981	<i>A Chorus Line</i> , first Broadway performance, presented
	
December 1981	Springfield Ballet Company first presented <i>The Nutcracker</i> , already an annual community tradition, at SSU Auditorium
Fall 1986	<i>Class Acts</i> school matinee series started, offering curriculum-based performances for K-12 students during the school day
	
Spring 1990	First electronic ticketing system implemented
January 1991	<i>Les Miserables</i> , the first Broadway show to perform for an entire week of 8 performances in the SSU Auditorium, presented
	
1995	Sangamon State University became the University of Illinois Springfield; SSU Auditorium became Sangamon Auditorium
2001	First tickets sold online
2003	Retirement of John Dale Kennedy as Director of Sangamon Auditorium after 23 years of leadership
2006	Bob Vaughn hired as Director of Sangamon Auditorium
	
2011	UIS Studio Theatre developed as additional public performance space with the addition of the "Kitchen Sink Series" of performances
Fall 2017	Retirement of Bob Vaughn; Bryan Rives hired as Director
	
Fall 2018	Venues rebranded as UIS Performing Arts Center
	
March 12, 2020	COVID-19 shutdown began
Fall 2021	Planned reopening of the UIS Performing Arts Center for public events

# Sangamon Auditorium at 40

Over the course of four decades, the Sangamon Auditorium/UIS Performing Arts Center has brought the world to Springfield

By David Scott, courtesy of *UIS Today* Fall 2020

The UIS Performing Arts Center's tradition of mixing education and entertainment is not a recent acquisition; in fact, it was there right from the beginning in February 1981 when the stage of the Public Affairs Center's newly opened, 2,000-seat Sangamon Auditorium was graced by Mark Twain.



Not the long-dead comic master of American letters; rather it was actor Hal Holbrook who played Twain in a long-running and highly popular production of his one-person play, *Mark Twain Tonight*. So popular, in fact, that Holbrook brought Twain to the Sangamon

Auditorium stage six times between 1981 and 2008. Twain was an ideal opener for a venue that would soon rise to prominence for its programming that mixed enlightenment and enjoyment.

Throughout the space's next 39 seasons, Twain would be joined by a host of cultural luminaries. Pat Carroll recreated modernist writer Gertrude Stein (1981). Robert Morse embodied author and bonvivant Truman Capote (the '92–93 season). Cloris Leachman displayed the colors of primitive painter Grandma Moses ('93–94). James Whitmore breathed life into Will Rogers ('94–95). And impressionist Rich Little found himself alone in a most impressive crowd of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, both Bushes and Obama in his one-person show *The Presidents* ('02–03). And let's not forget Academy Award-winner Martin Landau, who scared the daylights out of everyone as *Dracula* ('84–85).

## ***The Prefab Four...and More!***

The Beatles—or, at least, their enduring music—hit the stage no fewer than six times between 1982 and 2019 in three recreations: *Beatlemania!*, *1964...as the Beatles*, and *RAIN*. For those who like their performers a little less ersatz, real rockers have stormed the stage

as well, including metal-lite glam duo Nelson ('91), Jethro Tull ('07–08), Beach Boy Brian Wilson ('09–10), ZZ Top ('13–14) and the Moody Blues ('14–15).

Country fans have welcomed several of their favorite acts over the years, perhaps none more iconic than the First Lady of Country Music, Tammy Wynette ('81–82); the Man in Black, Johnny Cash ('94–95); and the Red Headed Stranger, Willie Nelson ('14–15). Jazzbos flipped their lids for Billy Taylor ('81), Ray Charles ('81–82), the Preservation Hall Jazz Band ('81–82), Count Basie with Cab Calloway ('83–84), Sarah Vaughn with the Ramsey Lewis Trio ('84–85) and Tony Bennett ('16–17).

Over the years the classics have captured rapt audiences as well; numerous regional and international orchestras and ensembles—including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra ('81), the Westminster Choir ('81–82), the Vienna Boys Choir ('81–82), the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra ('81–82), the Juilliard String Quartet ('83–84), the Texas Opera Theatre ('82–83) and the Peking Opera ('97–98)—have graced the stage. Dance troupes spanning the globe stopped by as well, coming from as far away as Los Angeles and Montreal, and such far-flung locales as Senegal and Siberia.

## ***Clowder Power***

There's a good chance that if you've been near the PAC stage door late in the evening, you might have seen what looked like a human/feline hybrid pussyfooting about. No, you didn't hit the nip too hard; it was a touring production of *CATS* (Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical setting of T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*), which has stopped by the Auditorium no fewer than five times between 1987 and 2008. It nearly doubles the track record for



Webber and Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which has risen to the occasion only thrice. The area's musical fans have thrilled to multiple tours of *A Chorus Line* ('83-84, '97-98), *Evita* ('83-84, '07-08), *Les Miserables* ('90-91, '96-97), *Grease!* ('96-97, '98-99), *RENT* ('99-00, '06-07, '18-19) and *Hairspray* ('07-08, '08-09).

Fans of dramatic theater turned out for *Morning's at Seven* ('81), *Children of a Lesser God* ('82-83), *Oleanna* ('94-95) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* ('03-04), as well as numerous productions of Shakespeare, fully staged or adapted.

And let's not forget the intrepid stand-up comedians who command the stage with only their wits about them. The Auditorium could start its own comedy



club as it has hosted four of the industry's giants: Arsenio Hall (who opened for the Pointer Sisters in 1981), Bob Newhart ('90-91), Jerry Seinfeld ('17-18) and Jay Leno ('18-19). Paula Poundstone made three appearances between 1992 and 2001, topping Carrot Top ('99-00, '02-03) by one.

### *The Corners of the Globe, Just Across the Way*

The Auditorium has served as the city's ambassador for 1,025 events in four decades, welcoming the world to Springfield. Shows introduce UIS students and Springfield audiences to cultures and folkways that reflect the full diversity of our experience just as they combine heritages, traditions and even media into an exciting multicultural mix. Here are a few: *Kabuki Macbeth* ('87-88), *Muntu African Dance* ('88-89), *American Indian Dance Theatre* ('89-90), *Soviet Acrobatic Revue* ('90-91), *Ballet Folklórico de México* ('91-92, '09-10), *Taiko Dojo Drums of Japan* ('94-95), the *Klezmer Conservatory Band* ('00-01), *Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company* ('10-11) and *Tango Bueno Aries* ('10-11).

And because the UIS Performing Arts Center has a strong regional draw, the Auditorium has been no stranger to performances from the school, the city and the region. It is the performance home of the

Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Ballet Company, the UIS Theatre and Music programs and numerous educational series that serve the region's school kids. Illinoisans who have tread the boards at the Auditorium and the Studio Theatre include attendee Bobby McFerrin ('94-95), Chicago City Ballet ('83-84), *This American Life's* Ira Glass ('90-91), Tom Irwin's *Sangamon Songs: A Musical Play* ('19-20), the UIS Theatre production of *God of Carnage* ('19-20), the Eastern Illinois Jazz Ensemble with the Shirelles ('96-97), and Handel's *Messiah* with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir and the Springfield Messiah Chorus ('84-85).



This is only a few of the University's performance highlights. No doubt fans of adventurous theater are asking "Where the @#&! is *Avenue Q* ('09-10)?" just as aficionados of kitsch are wondering "What? No mention of *Weird Al Yankovic* ('00-01)?" Be it pop or high culture, the UIS Performing Arts Center listens to its community, then strives to both challenge its audiences and give the people what they want. And if you can't always get what you want, when you try, sometime you just might find you get what you need.

# Education Connections



The **Staley Class Acts** series is the UIS Performing Arts Center's flagship education outreach program. For over 30 years, this program has supported the educational goals of area teachers by providing opportunities for students in preschool through high school to experience artistic, educational, and high-quality performances created for young audiences by nationally-touring theater companies. COVID-19 in 2019/2020 may have required a pause to in-person attendance for Staley Class Acts, but nothing stops the need for performing arts exposure

2020/2021 Virtual Staley Class Acts statistics:

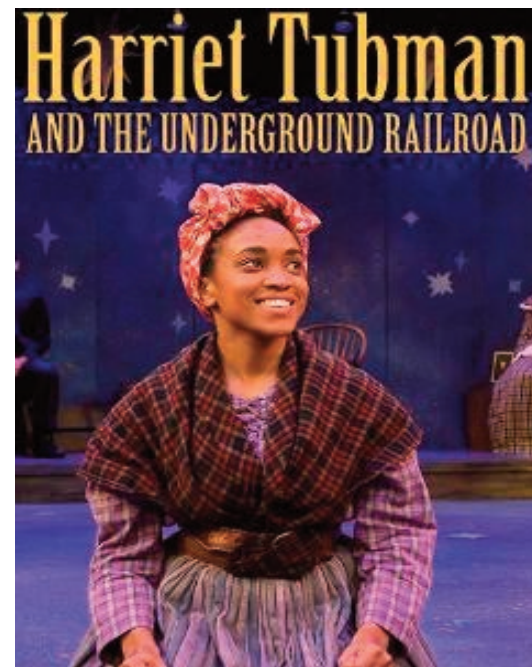
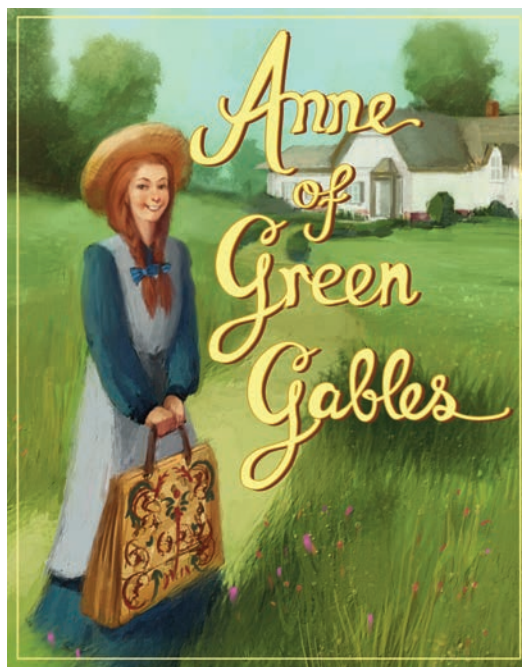
- 9,606 participants in Virtual Staley Class Acts
  - Approximately 2/3 the attendance of past several Staley Class Acts seasons
- On demand, virtual performances of 3 different

shows offered free of charge to all area schools

- Students from 226 classes tuned in to experience Virtual Staley Class Acts from:
  - 123 unique public, private, and home schools
  - 21 different counties throughout Illinois, as well as 4 additional US states and one overseas country

What teachers are saying about Staley Class Acts:

- "We loved the opportunity to bring the stage to our students!"
- "This performance was excellent! The video presentation was seamless!"
- "We did it the last week of school as a special event and used the questions to help understand story elements and how as actors they accomplished the story."
- "I teach in a rural Illinois community with very little diversity. We are approx. 98% white. Every two years we take our 7th and 8th graders on a two-day trip to Memphis, Tenn. to visit the National Civil Rights Museum and other





UIS Performing Arts Education Connections partnered with the Springfield Ballet Company to create videos for students to learn and perform the "Chicken Dance" with SBC dancers.

Memphis sites such as Graceland, Sun Studios, Beale Street, Rock n' Soul Museum, etc.. We study the history of the Civil Rights Movement as well as Black History as preparation for the trip. Your performance is one of the events we have gone to for many years and we think it is a powerful expression of the way things used to be. Many of our students are not exposed to people different than themselves and we think this trip is important in expanding the knowledge that not everyone in our country have experienced the same history. Thank you for allowing us to enjoy this performance in such a difficult year."

- "We learned interesting facts. The actors spoke clearly. The kids said the 'actors did an amazing job!'"
- "I had a student tell me that it was very interesting and that [it] really made him think!"
- "We are learning about points of view as well as reading non-fiction with a focus on biographies. We used the play as a way to show another way a story can be told and this very closely followed a biography format."
- "Discussed different types of jobs people have...actors/actresses in the play demonstrated to students another avenue of professions."

- "We had done a unit on Farm Animals and where things come from (eggs from chickens, etc.) so it was a great fun wrap up to that and to the end of the year. Sort of a "field trip" that we would have loved to have gone on in person if we were in school. My class was remote ALL year long."
- "I used it as a part of our Social Emotional lessons and was able to talk about bullying."
- "My students loved the performance, and they enjoyed that multiple characters were portrayed by single artists."
- "Two classes met together to watch the performance after discussing some of the talking points provided in the Teacher's Guide. The older class then did the timeline worksheet provided."
- "It went along well with our extra coverage this month on Black History. We compared and contrasted the performance with a story we also read about HT."
- "We have read about and studied numerous famous Black Americans throughout the year. The kids had been introduced to Harriet, but were able to build a lot of knowledge about her. The kids wrote about Harriet after the viewing."

# Education Connections

## Partners in Education



A KC Education Program

UIS Performing Arts Services works with Springfield Public Schools as a team in the **Partners in Education** program, a national program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with a goal of supporting arts in education by providing teachers with professional development training in arts integration. In 2020/2021, local Head Start teachers and assistant teachers participated in "Taking Your Program from Live to Live Stream" with John Bertles and Carina Piaggio, the husband-and-wife duo behind the nationally-acclaimed science-based environmental arts musical group *Bash the Trash*. Using their experience as artists, educators, and nationally-recognized workshop leaders with the Kennedy Center, Bertles and Piaggio led two sessions of workshops for area teachers to help guide their transition of arts education into the virtual landscape of the moment.



Students accompany a song on percussion instruments.



Through the **Arts Start** program, funded by the PNC Grow Up Great, over 475 students in the Springfield Urban League Head Start program receive arts education experiences. Now completing its tenth year, the program includes performances for students, pre-

show classroom visits, classroom learning materials, professional development for teachers, and an annual family event. Due to COVID-19, all events in 2020/2021 had to be held virtually for safety reasons. To facilitate these events and activities, and to assist with all virtual learning in Head Start classrooms, Education Connections was thrilled to be able to donate 27 webcams and mini projectors as part of the PNC Grow Up Great initiative. This technology, as well as the instrument kits curated and assembled by UIS Education staff for each Head Start classroom, will benefit students for years to come.





## Community Engagement

Throughout the pandemic, UIS Performing Arts Education Connections sought out new ways to serve our broader educational and artistic communities. As the world became increasingly more isolated, the communal nature of the performing arts, even in virtual form, became a much-needed shared space.

- In mid-December of 2020, piano students throughout the community came together virtually to demonstrate their skills and talents in the UIS Performing Arts Education Connections produced "We Stream a Little Christmas Recital." UIS PAC staff donated their time, space, and equipment so that 21 local piano students could record their performance individually and safely, all of which could then be live streamed in one recital.



Local piano student playing a holiday song during *We Stream a Little Christmas Recital*.

- During the 2019/2020 school year, music students were unable to participate in person in their annual Solo & Ensemble contest. UIS Education Connections, along with additional UIS PAC staff, worked with Springfield School District 186 to create professional-quality recordings of instrumental and vocal solo performances for 21 middle and high school students throughout the district. Students were able to send these for competition, and UIS Education Connections was thrilled to live stream a compiled recital of local student talent.
- The free, live streamed, family-friendly public performances of *Anne of Green Gables* and *Chicken*

*Dance* included post-show activities the entire family could participate in from their own home. Whether learning the Chicken Dance from Springfield Ballet Company dancers or learning drama techniques from Assistant Director for Operations Carly Shank and her young assistants, each evening was an opportunity to experience the performing arts as both a member of the audience and a performer.



"My kids loved watching the live performance of the Chicken Dance play and learning the dance afterwards! My 3 year old was highly engaged in the play, asking questions about the story, responding to the interactive elements, and cheering for the outcome of the talent show! My 6 year old followed the dance instructions attentively and put on a great performance in our living room. This was a fantastic way for our family to engage in live theater from our own home while we were not able to gather in a theater!" – Kate Mack, patron



A talented crew of actors demonstrates improvisational exercises following the performance of *Anne of Green Gables*. From left: Andrew Runyard, Emily Runyard, Assistant Director of Operations Carly Shank, Charlotte Ratz, Avett Shank, Sydney Williams

# FRIENDS of UIS Performing Arts Center



The FRIENDS of UIS Performing Arts Center includes those who support us through monetary donations and through volunteering. These gifts allow for more performances by big-name stars, continuing upgrades to the facility, and opportunities to introduce area children to performing arts experiences. We are especially grateful to the dedicated arts patrons listed here whose gifts played a vital role in funding the UIS Performing Arts Center during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you!

## Heritage Society

*donors who have included UIS Performing Arts Center in their estate plans*

- Keith D.\* & Shirley H. Baer
- John Dale & Ronee Kennedy
- Marcus Schnetz in memory of Sherri Schnetz\*

## Individual Lifetime Gifts of \$1,000,000 or more

- Elizabeth\* & Robert Staley

## Individual Lifetime Gifts of \$250,000 or more

- Helen S. Hamilton\*

## Individual Lifetime Gifts of \$50,000 or more

- Clark & Carol Esarey
- Charles\* & Kathleen Hoogland
- Margaret "Peggy" Madden\*
- Priscilla M. Reyhan
- William R. Schnirring\*
- Julius\* & Dorothy\* Weiss

## FRIENDS of UIS Performing Arts Center gifts received from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

### Gifts of \$500,000+

Mr. Robert W. Staley

Bryan Rives

George & Diane Stone

Carolyn Bowers

Mr. & Mrs. David Burke

Betty L. Thompson

Norma & Charles Van

### Gifts of \$25,000 - \$29,999

PNC Financial Services  
Group

### Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Steve & Chris Bedford

Carol Herzog

Warren & Deborah Knoles

Craig & Kathleen

Campbell

Larry Christensen

Mike & Diana Dedrick

Daniel Ferrari & Margaret

Ferrari

Dave & Ruth Ann Hicks

Thomas and Janis Hyde

Thomas & Sharon

Lucchesi

Gary & Sharon Mather

Saul Morse & Anne

Morgan

Jeff Naber & Peggy Harris

Richard & Rebecca Owens

Donald & Brenda Peck

Stephanie Peske

Michael & Marla Pick

Mark & Callie Reichert

Valkenburg

William Wafford

Karen & Bob Westbrook

### Gifts of \$15,000 - \$19,999

Illinois Arts Council

Gina Kovach & Dave

Steward

Diane & Dennis Rumme

State Farm Companies

Foundation

### Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999

Arts Midwest

### Gifts of \$1,500 - \$2,499

Dan & Lynn Brown

James Kappel

### Gifts of \$250 - \$499

Anonymous (2)

Gerry & Mary Ann Beard

Dale & Cathy Becker

Michael & Karen

Beckmann

Sarah Beuning & John

Martin

### Gifts of \$100 - \$249

Paul & Jane Adami

Judith Anderson

Ashley Andrews

Ron & Cheryl Armintrout

Effie Barber

Laurie Barnes

E. Ann Becker

Jim & Annette Bellm

Trent & Lisa Benanti

Scottie & Diane Beville

Judith Bloome in memory

of George W. Bloome

James & Katherine

Brennan

Gene Brimm  
Robert Brouse II  
Charles & Mary Callahan  
Lawrence & Lisa Catlin  
in memory of  
Donna Catlin  
Lawrence & Joanne  
Crowley  
Dr. Tanya Desanto &  
Dr. Craig Batterman  
Christine & Michael  
Devocelle  
Michael & Lori Downing  
Laura Ann Drennan  
Lanie & Linda Eagleton  
Mr. Frank Kimball Efird, Jr.  
Stephen & Marian  
England  
Teri Fink  
Kurt & Carole Flaherty  
Steven & Mary Lou F  
lowers  
Curtis Fox  
Scherrie Giamanco  
David & Meridy Gillespie  
Timothy & Cathy Harte  
Dr. Martha Harter  
Steven & Jeannette  
Hassebrock  
Kevin & Laura Hecht  
Robert & Gail Hedges  
Pat & Jennifer Hemmer  
In Memory of  
William E. Higgason  
Allan & Pamela Hopper  
Mike & Maureen  
Horstman  
Robert Hubbard  
Sarah Laiennaro &  
Kimberly Villanueva  
Hank & Linda Keene

Michael L. Knight  
Steve & Jodie Koch  
Karl Kohlrus  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Kuhn  
Gregory & Kendra  
Langdon  
Ronald & Joan Larner  
Charles & Irma Laswell  
Ted & Pamela LeBlang  
Larry & Carol Lenzi  
David & Valerie Leonatti  
Jim and Sara Lopinski  
Linda Lucke  
Dennis & Carolyn  
Maberry  
Thomas & Mary Mann  
Linda McCall  
Penny & Bill McCarty  
Vaughn Morrison &  
Sherry Knight  
Michael & Becky Motor  
Craig & Heather Murdock  
John & Vickie Newman  
David & Kathryn Nixon  
Thomas & Kimberly  
Noonan  
Margaret O'Connell  
Paul & Lynne O'Shea  
Ray & Janet Ogden  
Edward & Katherine  
Pauley  
Gary & Deb Philo  
Mike & Rene Pickett  
Collins & Mary Anne  
Pieper  
Aaron & LuAnn Romine  
J. Richard & Linda Schien  
Steve & Deborah Shelton  
Robert & Natalie  
Silverman  
Tammy Spradlin

Roderick & Janet  
Spurbeck  
Tom & Tammy Stack  
Bob & Pat Sullivan  
Theodore & Judy Sunder  
Kevin & Carol Switzer  
Linda Tice  
Howard & Karen Tin  
Theodore & Elizabeth  
Tracy  
Bob & Veda Vaughn  
Mr. & Mrs. James R.  
Waymack  
Pat & John Webber  
Brenda Welch  
Thomas Welch  
Marcia Wherry  
Diana Widicus & Mike  
Davis  
David & Shannon Wright  
Douglas & Linda  
Wuellner

#### **Gifts of \$5 - \$99**

Loretta J. Benedict  
Todd and Jen Berle  
Barbara Bolin  
Leigh Brannan  
Charles Buie  
Brittany Cruz  
George Curry  
Mike & Jennie Davis  
Kevin R. Eckhoff &  
Michelle McNeely  
Sara Featherlin  
Rick & Janet Ford  
Carolyn Graham  
Patricia Haynes  
Robert & Gail Hedges  
Robert & Rosemary  
Jokisch

Nathan Koch  
Marc Loro  
Alice Martin  
Kimberly Martin  
Susan Millard  
William Newton  
Greg & Karen Ramey  
John Ringle & Elisa Hill  
Pamela Salela  
Susan & Willy Scheller  
Randy & Jean Scherer  
Kim & Bernie  
Schoenburg  
Joan Sestak  
Carly Shank  
Nancy Shaver  
Debra Smith  
Nick & Brandy Stabler  
Peter & Patricia Steward  
Lucas Stoller  
Leland & Ruth Storm  
Kenneth & Donna Wille  
Janet Zimmerman

#### **Gifts of Volunteer Time**

##### **10+ Years**

Sheva Forbes  
Sandie Longen+

##### **5+ Years**

Betty Garlisch  
Melissa Nichols+  
Carroll Richards  
David Rowell  
Janet Rowell

\*Deceased/In Memoriam  
+Volunteer Manager



Elizabeth and Robert Staley

## One Donor Making a Huge Impact

Elizabeth (Liz) Chapman Staley loved children, enjoyed the performing arts, and counted the Laura Ingalls Wilder “Little House” series among her favorite books.

When she discovered that the UIS Performing Arts Center, which she and her husband regularly attended and supported, was about to offer a Laura Ingalls Wilder performance on their K-12 school matinee series, Liz reached out to the center to ask if she could attend the performance, typically only attended by school children. The staff were happy to oblige her request, and as she sat amongst the children in attendance, she was able to see not only the performance, but the response of the children around her, many of

whom had not attended live performances previously. “This is like a movie!” was one of her favorite responses of a child near her.

Inspired by this experience, Liz asked questions of the Performing Arts Center’s Carly Shank about how she could contribute financially to these opportunities for local children. Given a number of options about ways Liz could support school children’s attendance, including funding their tickets and bussing, Liz chose how she wanted to proceed and with an initial contribution, local school districts were invited to benefit from her generosity.

After the first semester of students, teachers, and schools benefitting from the gift and sending thank you notes (many hand-addressed in crayon to “Dear Anonymous Donor”), Liz was so pleased by the outcome that she made another gift. And another. And another. The gifts kept coming in both regular and irregular increments for many



Students and teachers enjoy a Staley Class Acts performance.

years. Liz and the UIS Performing Arts Center established the Staley Class Acts Endowment to ensure her contributions would provide everlasting benefit to the community.

Liz passed away in 2016, but the gifts didn't end with her death. Liz's husband Bob continued to support the program Liz had started, with gifts similar to those provided by Liz in her lifetime. In 2021, Bob increased the commitment and provided a large sum that will help sustain this

kind of programming for local school children for years to come.

Thanks to all the gifts from Liz and Bob, we are able to assure the Staley Class Acts Endowment will live on forever, and school children will continue to benefit from programming at the Performing Arts Center. We are also thrilled to be able to honor Liz and Bob by adding their name to the longtime school matinee series, naming it "Staley Class Acts" in their honor.



Illustrated drawings of students' favorite moments from the *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* Staley Class Act performance

# UIS Performing Arts Services Staff

The following list includes everyone who contributed to the success of the 2020/2021 season as an employee of UIS Performing Arts Services at any time between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Matt Abrell – Office Support Specialist (Finance)  
Jennie Davis – Valet Supervisor  
Chip Deiss – Office Support Specialist (Operations)  
Briana Fulton – Business Administrative Specialist  
David Hecht – Assembly Hall Stagehand  
Rebekah Hecht – Ticket Sales Assistant  
Sharon Mather – Development Manager  
William Newton – Ticket Sales Assistant  
Craig Norman – Production Manager  
Betsy O'Brien – Education Connections Program Coordinator  
Bryan Rives – Director  
Carly Shank – Assistant Director of Operations  
Shannon Smith – Ticket Office Manager  
Joe Taylor – Stage Foreman

Jen Tibbs-Berle – Coordinator of Public Information and Marketing  
Dwight Vaught – House Manager

**Administrative Office Student Worker:** Kaitlin Coultas

**Stagehands:** Mark Cole, Sherry Foote, William T. Geiger, Thomas Harvill, Dennis Leach, Scott Meier, Ryan Ruettiger, Robert Stockwell, Stephen Tankersley

In 2020/2021, Performing Arts Services staff donated 300+ hours to the campus wide efforts to keep UIS safe during the COVID-19 crisis, delivering saliva samples from the UIS campus to the laboratory on the UIUC campus for testing. Between August 2020 and March 2021, Director Bryan Rives and UIS Performing Arts Education Connections Program Coordinator Betsy O'Brien drove nearly 15,000 miles, ensuring approximately 30,000 samples from UIS students, faculty, and staff were quickly tested and our campus remained safe.



Betsy O'Brien holding COVID-19 Shield Illinois test samples.



UIS Performing Arts Center staff meet via zoom during COVID-19 shut down.

# Financial Report

## OPERATING REVENUE

State Support	\$328,633
Earnings in Endowment & Special Funds	\$45,204
Other Grants/Gifts	\$36,160
FRIENDS Annual Fund	\$1,821
Ticket Sales	\$7,687
Facility Rental Income	\$ -
Other Earned Revenue	\$250
Concession Stand Revenue	\$83,838
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$503,593</b>

## EXPENSE

Salaries & Wages	\$862,145
Materials & Supplies	\$49,497
Capital Projects/Maintenance	\$33,719
Other Admin Expenses	\$34,207
Marketing Expenses	\$19,515
Other Event Expenses	\$11,185
Artist Fees	\$8,783
Fundraising	\$3,523
Concession Stand Expense	\$2,099
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,024,673</b>
Endowment Earnings Carried Forward to FY22	\$39,758
Transfer to Reserves	\$(560,838)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$503,593</b>

## OPERATING/MAINTENANCE RESERVES

<b>6/30/2020*</b>	\$8,140
<b>6/30/2021</b>	\$(552,698)

## ENDOWMENTS & SPECIAL FUNDS

	<b>6/30/2020</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>
UIS Staley Class Acts Sangamon Auditorium	\$242,326	\$762,326
UIS Auditorium Fund**	\$318,663	\$318,663
UIS Helen Hamilton Performing Arts Endowment for Youth Fund	\$268,300	\$268,300
UIS Auditorium Endowment Fund	\$264,997	\$265,247
UIS James L. Lundquist Endowment Fund	\$224,578	\$224,578
UIS Chapman-Staley Sangamon Auditorium Endowment Fund	\$222,860	\$222,860
UIS Sangamon Auditorium Maintenance Endowment	\$104,460	\$104,460
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects - Piano Maintenance Fund	\$5,770	\$5,770
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects - Partners in Education Fund	\$2,580	\$1,030
Our Stage Our Voices	-	\$536

\*Operating/Maintenance Reserves was misstated by a difference of \$65 on the FY20 Community Impact Report. The balance as of 6/30/20 was actually \$8,140.

\*\*UIS Auditorium Fund balance was misstated in the FY20 Community Impact Report. The balance as of 6/30/20 was actually \$318,663. (A \$10,000 withdraw was made at fiscal year end.)



**Performing Arts Services**

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD