

## Season Highlights



Joe Bonamassa



Copper Coin Ballet Company: The Nutcracker

Over **68,000**Patron Visits



**Proud Tina** 

\$2,030,000 in Ticket Sales for events in the 2024–2025 Season

More than **\$850,000** in Grants & Charitable Contributions



Chancellor Gooch with June Novak-Bock and Stephanie Elder.

950+ Donors



Hadestown

Layout and design by Lindsey Feger, UIS Graphics

# Table of Contents

- Major Events
- 6 Campus & Community
- 2nd Act Campaign
- 10 Local Arts & Arts Education
- 12 Sensory-Friendly
- 14 Schools & Teachers
- Our Stage / Our Voices
- **18** Ground Floor Productions
- 20 Date Night Series
- **Donors**
- **33** Volunteers
- 36 Staff
- **1** Financials

# From the Chancellor



s we reflect on the 2024–2025 season, I invite you to celebrate with us the many moments that made this year so special. From unforgettable performances that moved and inspired us to programs that deepened our connection to the community, this season was filled with meaningful experiences that we were honored to share with you.

Sangamon Auditorium and the UIS Studio Theatre came alive with powerful dramas, side-splitting comedies, breathtaking musical performances and moments of wonder that kept us all on the edge of our seats. Beyond the stage, our venues grew and evolved through important improvements designed to enhance every experience, whether you joined us as an audience member, volunteer, donor, artist or partner.

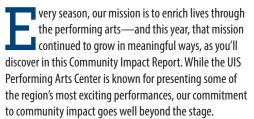
This year also saw the exciting launch of our 2nd Act Campaign, as we raise funds to reimagine and refresh Sangamon Auditorium through seating and interior upgrades. We are grateful for the incredible generosity and enthusiasm that have already fueled this effort.

Thank you for playing an essential role in this journey. Your support helps bring the power of the performing arts to our campus community, and we look forward to creating even more unforgettable moments together in the seasons to come.





# From the Director



In addition to all of the programs mentioned in this report, we also made significant investments in our venues to better serve our audiences, artists, and community partners. These improvements included new digital signage in the main lobby and inside Sangamon Auditorium, essential repairs to our theatrical dimming system, and enhanced production capabilities in the UIS Studio Theatre. We also added infrared safety cameras in the Studio Theatre, upgraded wheelchairs for patron use, modernized computer systems in our public meeting rooms, and installed a sophisticated computerized cueing system to improve technical execution during performances.

This year also marked the launch of our 2nd Act Campaign, an exciting fundraising initiative focused on replacing the seats and carpet in Sangamon Auditorium and addressing other priority projects during the 2025–2026 season. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the campaign is already off to a strong start.

It takes people to create impact. This season, 17 full-time staff, nearly 300 part-time and extra-help employees, over 200 volunteers, more than 800 donors, and more than 68,000 audience members played a role in our success.

As you explore this report, I hope you feel a sense of pride in what we've accomplished together. Every performance, program, and improvement was made possible by the continued belief in the power of the performing arts to connect, uplift, and inspire. Thank you for being an essential part of that story.



# Major Events

#### 2024-2025

4 | UIS Performing Arts Center





Dear Evan Hansen



**Pretty Woman** 



Hadestown



**Brad Williams** Aug. 24 Sept. 4 **Proud Tina** Oct. 12 **Bee Gees Now!** Oct. 23 Hadestown Oct. 25 A Taste of Ireland Nov. 26 Joe Bonamassa Dec. 2 Dear Evan Hansen **Dec. 14** The Prophecy Show **Mannheim Steamroller** Dec. 21 Feb. 2 **Charlie Berens** Feb. 13 **Brett Young** Feb. 14 Joe Gatto Feb. 21 **Pretty Woman** Mar. 12 Keb' Mo' & Shawn Colvin

One Night of Queen Whose Live Anyway?

Mar. 20

Mar. 26

# Campus & Community



At the UIS Performing Arts Center, we're proud to partner with exceptional organizations on our campus and throughout the greater community.



**UIS Commencement** 



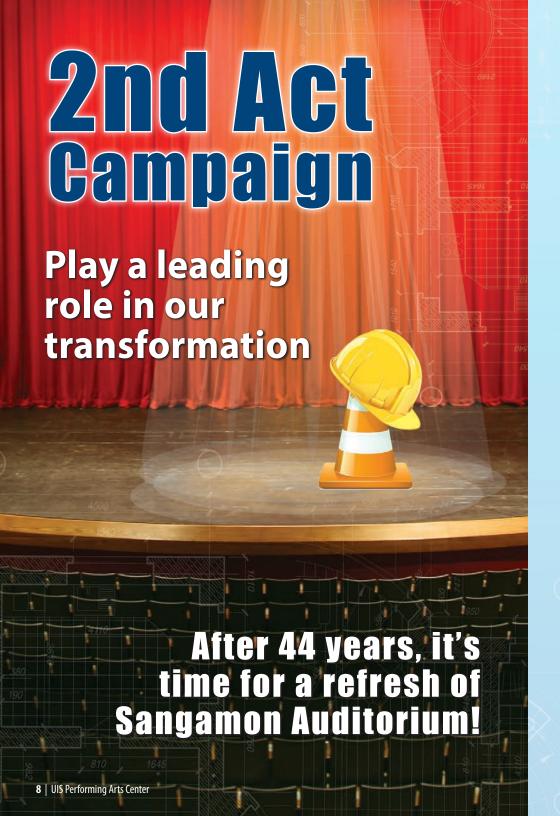


## Community Event Highlights

- Eight Illinois Symphony Orchestra concerts
- Five local graduation ceremonies
- Three Copper Coin Ballet Company productions
- IL House of Representatives Inauguration Ceremony
- All City Music Festival



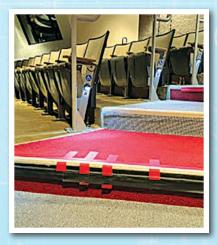
Illinois Symphony Orchestra





n mid-November 2024, we were notified that in June UIS Facilities would begin a major plumbing replacement project of the Public Affairs Center, aimed at upgrading infrastructure and resolving long-standing issues. Funded through the Capital Development Board, the work will significantly impact our ability to operate as usual. The project involves a full replacement of the building's sewer and domestic water systems—affecting restrooms, kitchens, dressing rooms, and more—and will require the temporary closure of our performance venues.

While this essential work supports the long-term integrity of the building, we chose to use this downtime to make long-requested upgrades to Sangamon Auditorium, including more comfortable seats, new carpet, and potentially aisles on the main floor.



By March 2025, we had begun quietly fundraising for our 2nd Act Campaign, and by its public launch in April, we had already surpassed our first milestone of \$250,000. By the close of the 2024–2025 season, we had exceeded \$400,000.

Since opening in 1981, Sangamon Auditorium has welcomed over 2 million patrons and hosted everything from Broadway tours and world-class musicians to comedians, speakers, and community celebrations.

Generations of central Illinoisans have memories tied to this space—first shows, standing ovations, family traditions. The venue has served us well, but the time has come to give Sangamon Auditorium the update it deserves.

NOTE: Donors to the 2nd Act Campaign will be recognized in the 2025–2026 Community Impact Report.

#### Local Arts & Arts Education



**10** UIS Performing Arts Center

We are proud to serve our diverse community with inclusive local arts and arts education programs such as **Staley Class Acts**, **Arts Start** with Springfield Urban League Head Start, **Our Stage / Our Voices, Sensory-Friendly** events, our popular Date Night Series and our own **Ground Floor Productions**.



One Hundred Strings: Traditional Indian String Music



African Folktales



**Sept. 6** Date Night with Comedy, Magic & Mentalism

**Sept. 13** Date Night with Electric **Bass Ouintet** 

**Sept. 26–29** The Lifespan of a Fact # (4 performances)

Oct. 5 PLANETS with David Becker

Oct. 10–11 One Hundred Strings: Traditional Indian String Music ~ (2 performances)

Oct. 12 Date Night with It Takes Four to Tango

Nov. 14 Experience Tater Tots \* (3 performances)

Nov. 15 Date Night with Voice & **Guitar: Love Songs** 

Nov. 16 All Access: A Show for Every Body ^

Nov. 21–24 Doctor Voynitch & *Her Children* (4 performances)

Jan. 23 African Folktales ~ (2 performances)

Jan. 25 Date Night with Ten Minute Plays

**Jan. 31** Experience Decades through Dance \* (2 performances)

**Feb. 4** Doktor Kaboom! Under *Pressure* ∼ (2 performances)

Feb. 11 ISO Concert for Kids ~ (2 performances)

**Feb. 14** Date Night with Love Songs of Broadway

**Feb. 24** *The Giver* ~ (2 performances)

**Feb. 28** Date Night with Relax Your Fars

Mar. 4 Hero: The Boy from Troy ~

Mar. 13–16 Almost, Maine ^ (4 performances)

Mar. 27 Pete the Cat ~ (2 performances)

\* Included a sensory-friendly performance ^ Our Stage / Our Voices production # Ground Floor Production

~ Included in Staley Class Acts series

#### Sensory-Friendly Series

Performances designed specifically for individuals of all ages with unique sensory needs in an inclusive, supportive environment.





Experience Decades through Dance (above) and Experience Tater Tots (below).

Our program venues and staff are certified by KultureCity, the world's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to sensory accessibility and acceptance.





Julie Ratz, Artistic Director of Copper Coin Ballet Company and a proud Springfield native, is a passionate advocate for making the performing arts accessible to all. Through partnership with the UIS Performing Arts Center, she and her dancers have presented several sensory-friendly performances—an initiative that holds deep personal meaning. Julie's daughter is on the autism spectrum, giving her both insight and commitment to creating inclusive experiences.

When asked about what makes a performance sensory-friendly, Julie is quick to clarify: it's not about taking things away. "Sensory-friendly doesn't mean no senses—it means being friendly to people with sensory needs," she explains. The key, she says, is fostering an environment where behaviors that might be considered disruptive in traditional settings are understood and accepted. The audience is aware, tolerant, and supportive of the variety of needs present.

Julie prepares her dancers by explaining the kinds of sounds or behaviors they might encounter during these performances. But she also emphasizes the joy these audiences bring. Special needs audiences are the best because they're the most reactive. "It's a very joyful experience for both the audience and the performers. They're both fully engaged." Unlike traditional audiences, which may be more reserved, neurodivergent individuals often express their excitement openly—creating a vibrant, shared energy in the room.

Julie is proud of Springfield's thriving performing arts scene and the increasing number of high-quality offerings. "We have an obligation to educate our audiences in the fine arts," she says. "People with sensory needs deserve that same exposure and the same high-quality experience." She's encouraged by the growing acceptance of neurodivergent individuals in public spaces and sees this normalization as a vital step forward.

[UIS PAC] is a state-of-the-art venue, and we're so lucky to be able to use it to showcase our dancers and our art in the most professional way. The quality of the venue is unmatched.

# Programs for Schools & Teachers

We proudly offer programs that enrich learning for students and support professional growth for educators.





Doktor Kaboom! Under Pressure



# **Staley Class Acts**

Our flagship education program presents live performances selected to enhance local school curricula for K–12 students.



Local school children attend Staley Class Acts performance.

# © PNC Grow Up Great



Justine Moser and Carly Shank visit Head Start classrooms to lead students in performance.

# **Arts Start Program**

Students and teachers in the Springfield Urban League Head Start program engage in performing arts experiences funded by the PNC Grow Up Great initiative.



Professional development for Head Start teachers with children's book author, Lindsay Bonilla.



Professional development in scene painting for local high school teachers and community members.

#### **Teachers**

We also provide opportunities for teachers to earn continuing education credits, empowering them to bring creative, engaging experiences back to their classrooms.

#### Our Stage/ Our Voices

An initiative dedicated to amplifying underrepresented stories and fostering dialogue through performances, programs, and events that celebrate diverse voices within our community.



2024–2025 Artist-in-Residence, Steve Sykes



Almost, Maine



Encarnacion Teruel, Deputy Director of Illinois Arts Council (center) with Steve Sykes and actress Megan Norlin.

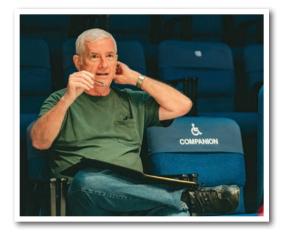
The Illinois Arts Council (IAC) visit with UIS Performing Arts Center's (UIS PAC) amazing staff, along with the experience of their Our Stage/Our Voices theatre performance of Almost, Maine was truly eye-opening. It was inspiring to witness how UIS PAC has created an inclusive environment, ensuring that every person, regardless of ability, can participate and experience the magic of live theatre. This experience reaffirms the transformative power of the arts and the importance of accessibility in making culture available to all Illinoisians.



All Access: A Show for Every Body

# Ground Floor Productions

The theatrical producing arm of the UIS Performing Arts Center showcasing local talent.







**Above top:** Director of The Lifespan of a Fact, Michael Savage.

*Middle:* Crew during a technical rehearsal.

Left: Cast of The Lifespan of a Fact, (left to right) Jakob Hankins, Laura Briggs, John O'Connor.

**Top right:** UIS PAC Director, Bryan Rives, attends technical rehearsal along with scenic designer, Sarah Brewer, and lighting designer, Eric Marsh.



round Floor Productions is the theatrical producing arm of the UIS Performing Arts Center, dedicated to producing fully staged plays in the UIS Studio Theatre. While many performances presented by the UIS Performing Arts Center are brought in from touring companies or hosted as rentals, Ground Floor shows are produced entirely in-house—from casting and design to direction and staging.

This is a key distinction. Most shows audiences see in Sangamon Auditorium are presented events—productions created elsewhere that we bring to Springfield. Ground Floor Productions, by contrast, builds each show from the ground up. These are our own productions, carefully crafted with a team of artists and technicians to reflect a high level of artistry and professionalism.

Located in the more intimate UIS Studio Theatre, Ground Floor Productions represents a step above our Date Night Series in terms of production scale. With enhanced scenic, lighting, and costume design, these shows offer audiences a rich and immersive theatrical experience—while still maintaining a close connection to the action on stage.

Springfield already enjoys a vibrant and diverse theater community, and through Ground Floor Productions, we're proud to be part of that landscape. What makes our model unique is

our commitment to operating on a professional timeline and ensuring that all participants—actors, designers, stage managers, and crew—are compensated for their work.

"As someone with a background in professional design, it's meaningful to have the opportunity to do this work and be paid for my time," says Sarah Brewer, who serves as the scene designer for many Ground Floor shows. "We follow a process similar to that of regional theaters, where the design is often finalized before rehearsals begin—sometimes even before the cast is announced. Each production brings together a highly creative team, and the results speak for themselves."

"The name Ground Floor Productions has multiple meanings," said Carly Shank, director of the UIS PAC's Local Arts & Arts Education efforts. "For starters, it refers to the UIS Studio Theatre truly being on the ground floor of the building. But 'ground floor' also refers to the excitement of being involved in the development of a new effort. We hope it suggests the specialness of being part of a unique, emerging, creative enterprise."

Ground Floor Productions is one more way the UIS Performing Arts Center is investing in quality, artistry, and the local creative economy—one show at a time.

# Date Night Series

Our 75-minute events where you can experience the work of a local artist up close—like going on a first date with their art.



Date Night with Relax Your Ears



Date Night with Jazz

These early-evening performances are perfectly timed so you can continue the night with dinner, making for a unique and memorable outing that celebrates the vibrant talent in our community.



Date Night with Ten Minute Plays



# Carol Herzog and Ten Minute Plays

arol HerzogHerzog's love of ten-minute plays began in 1985, when she joined Springfield's newly founded Mid-America Playwrights as a charter member. The group met for years, honing their craft and performing at *On Broadway*, a now-closed venue that once hosted musicians and artists.

"When you see what you wrote go from the page to the stage, you just can't believe it," she says. "It's an experience not many people get. But when you hear it, see it, and watch the crowd—it's incredibly fulfilling."

A longtime supporter of Springfield's arts community, Carol earned her master's degree in Community Arts Management from UIS in 1996. Even after moving to Texas in 2020, she has stayed connected.

During a conversation with a campus development officer about diversifying her charitable giving, Carol learned about *Date Night with Ten Minute Plays*, organized by 2024 Our Stage / Our Voices

When you see what you wrote go from the page to the stage, you just can't believe it...

Artist-in-Residence Tim Crawford. Crawford, also a playwright, has been on Carol's radar since *Outraged: Terror in Springfield 1908* premiered during his residency. This Date Night performance would be the culmination of a workshop he led with local playwrights.

"I think my face jumped off my face, so to speak," Herzog said. "I told her, you don't even need to explain it to me. It just sounds like the right thing. I'm sponsoring it!"

Carol returned to Springfield to see the production, which featured readings of six short plays by local artists—reminiscent of her own early experiences. She was thrilled with what she saw.

"I knew I was going to love it, but my expectations were beyond exceeded," she said. "I loved everything about it! This was fabulous!" After the show, she connected with C.M. Noel, the Springfield playwright whose piece won the audience vote. While Noel has experience writing fiction, the workshop marked his first foray into playwriting. Carol hopes to give other aspiring playwrights similar opportunities in the future.

"I told Tim if he was going to do this again, he definitely has my support," she said. "Even though I was just a sponsor, I could feel the wonderful excitement for everybody involved. This was just a tremendous way to highlight local talent. This is why I miss Springfield; to see cool things like this!"

For information on sponsoring future Date Night events, contact Sarah Brewer at sbrew5@uis.edu.

# Donor support strengthens the UIS Performing Arts Center's

Donor support strengthens the UIS Performing Arts Center's impact on our local community. Because of their generosity, donors enjoy special events, exclusive experiences and access to the donor lounge.









#### Lifetime Giving

to the UIS Performing **Arts Center** 

#### **Heritage Society**

Donors who have included UIS Performing Arts Center in their estate plans

- Keith D.\* & Shirley H. Baer
- John Dale & Ronée Kennedy
- Sharron LaFollette
- Bryan Rives & Daniel Dozier
- Marcus Schnetz in memory of Sherri Schnetz\*

#### \$1,000,000+

· The Family of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Staley

#### \$250,000+

• Helen S. Hamilton\*

#### \$100,000+

- Clark & Carol Esarey
- James Lundquist\*
- Alvera Knox\*

#### \$50,000+

- Gloria Calovini\*
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- Alvera Knox\*
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Sharon Zook



f you ask Carol Esarey about when she met her husband Clark, she will smile, grab Clark's hand and tell you that "Clark is, and has always been, my best friend". Clark and Carol met in their early twenties when both were teaching at a local high school. Their love of education was instilled by their mothers at an early age. Clark shares how his mother was widowed while he was very young and she not only raised all four of her children to pursue vocations in education but was a teacher herself who ended up earning her GED and an honorary Salutatorian status the same year he graduated from high school. Years later, Carol and Clark chose to honor their mothers by creating a UIS scholarship with a goal to help other single mothers who were pursuing their education.

Beyond education, the Esareys are devoted supporters of the UIS Performing Arts Center. They believe deeply in the enrichment it brings to Springfield and surrounding communities. They've been especially excited to see the number and variety of performances grow. Over the years, the Esareys have quietly championed projects that enhance the artist and patron experience—renovating dressing rooms, supporting the FRIENDS of the Performing Arts Center, upgrading the listening assistance system, and helping fund an image magnification system.

But don't expect to see them at every show they're also avid adventurers. The Esareys have a passion for exploring remote, untouched corners of the world. From tracking polar bears with a National Geographic photographer to embarking on safaris and wilderness tours, they're always seeking the road less traveled.

Still, when they're home in Springfield, they're all in. And they'll be the first to tell you.

We look forward to every season at the UIS Performing Arts Center. The Center is a treasure we all have here in our community that provides enjoyment for so many.

\*Deceased

#### **FRIENDS**

FRIENDS of the **UIS Performing Arts** Center is our annual giving program that provides vital support for performances, education, and community programs.





Honoring those who made gifts from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.

#### Sustainer (\$5,000)

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Carolyn Chambers

Doug & Vicki Clapp

Carla Chandler

Marsha Fanale **Kyle & Esther Farmer** Jeannie Fearnevhough Lvndee Fein Mark Ferguson Field Family Susan Fike Jennifer Flynn Kari Floyd Kenneth Folkerts Dawn Followell Timm & Nina Ford Megan Fox Cimeron & Rachel Frost Cori Fuchs Diana Fugnitti Ann Fulkerson **Bobbie Fults** Margaritta Fultz & Sontae Massey Nicholas Galardy Rich Garber Cathy Garrett Anthony & Lisa Gascoigne Susan Geiser Connie & JB George Jessica Gillis Mary Gleason **Toby Gleave** Melinda Glenn Teresa Glick Kathleen Gollon Steven & Jeannie Goodman Joe & Sandy Goodner John Gregowicz Vince Guerrettaz & Fwa Szamreta Jennifer & Rick Haberkorn Patty & Marshall Hale The Hannah Family Abbi Harb Rosemarie Harmon **Jeff & Nancy Harpring** 

Karen Harris

E. Harrison

Jennifer Hart Lynn Hasenyager Chris Haubrich **Brad Haverfield** Laura Healy **David Hemming** Sarah & Robert High **David Hirstius** Robin Hobson **Bev Hoffman** Scott Hohimer Holdmans Robert Holland **Emily Holland** Jessi Holland Holtrop Family Tiffany & Ashley Hootman Charlie & Vicki Howard Heather Howell Jim & Lori Huber Cody & Elizabeth Huffines John & Tara Hughes Wendy Humphres Tara Hupp Nikki Hurst Betty & Terry Husky Kent & Ann Janes Drs. Ashish & Teena John Chelsea & Miranda Jones Misty Jones Vincent Joseph Jurgens Family Sandra Jurgens Melissa & Daniel Kahle Linda Kelley Erik & Patricia Kendall Paul & Jane Kiel Kathy Kindred D. Kina Kiela King Carol Kirbach Rebecca Kirk-Wollesen The Beaghan Klein Family Danielle Kleinman Brandon Klisit Karl Kohlrus

28 | UIS Performing Arts Center Community Impact Report | 29

Kristen Arnold

Mark Arsenault

Elizabeth Bailey

Pamela Baker

**Bob & Marilyn Ashby** 

#### **FRIENDS**

Marcia Kolb Carla Kopec Fred & Anita Kraemer Roger & Mary Kratochvil Jessica Krisfalusi Michael & Jennifer Lair Michael & Maria Lamb Beth Langen **Emily Lawson** Bill & Michelle Lehmann Tammy Leigh Martha LeMay Mark LeVault Tom Linenfelser Ally Lisnek Bethany Lithgow Jordan Litvak Tvna Loafman Barb Lockwood Alan Loken Barbra Wylie Lovekamp Christopher Luttrell Kim Lynch Ed & Mona Mabie Larry & JoAnna Magelitz Lauren Mahan Cheryl Mahon Kevia Maloney Orlando Manzanares Rabbi Barry Marks & Nancy Sage Matt Marshall Jennifer & Isaac Marshall **Edmund Martin IJ Martin** Karla Martins Todd Marvel Jim Matheis Hal & Brandi Maxedon Kyle & Melinda Mayes Steve McCaffrey in memory of Gerry McCaffrey John McCall Nancy L McCarrel Deborah McCoy & Ronald

**Ortiz** 

Joy McCoy

Michael & Maddison McDowell Havden McKenna & Wesley McKenna Miriam McKinney Tom McMurray Matt & Laura McWhorter Miranda Merriman Steven Mertens & Jo Clauson Lawrence Meyer Sheila Meyers Rick Miller Jim & Jenny Miller Tawana Miller Jerry Miranda Jason Mollett Dave & Sherry Montgomery Mark Edmiston & Charlotte Montgomery Derrick Mooney Larry Moore William Morris Dana Cowan-Moyer & Anthony Moyer Anna Mulch Sara & Aaron Munds Matt & Carrie Munjoy David Munson Linda & Mike Murphy Shervl & Joe Murray Dan & Anita Nash Angela Neale Diane Newell Tracy Newlin Braden Nicoll Roger & Gail Niehaus J&J Niles Linda Nixon

Betsy O'Brien

Jeff Pankey

Cindy Peck

Clint Patterson

Jennifer Perdue

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Jordan Sevmour

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Carly Shank Janine Sherei Ann Shomidie Jennifer Shrake Jon Siegel & Coleen Hill Carol Coleman & Scott Silliman Kent Sinkler The Slaters Tim Slating Connie Slazinski Cecelia Sloan James Small Karla & Harold Smith Shannon Smith Nicole Snow Clav & Laura Snyder Gregory Springer Jana Staake Roz Stein Josh & Erin Stern **Daniel Stewart** J.D. & Mary Stewart Stephen & Lisa Stone Leland Storm Starla Street **Brandon Stricker** Megan Styles & Adena Rivas Tony & Susan Suggs Sullivan Family Sheila Sullivan David & Amy Swaar **David Swihart** David Szabo Tami Tanner **Beth Tatum** Katherine & Russell Taylor Joe Taylor Michelle & David Tebrugge Ricardo Thompson & Luz Lopez Dr. Leonard Bogle & Barbara Thompson Vicki Thompson **David Thornton** 

Jan & Randy Throckmorton

Linda Tice

Tana Totsch-Kimsev Jonathan & Norma Trepal Michael Trudeau Romina Alejandra Trujillo Agostini Will Truman Lori & Steven Turner Jane Van Tuyle Eric Veech Mark Venass Victoria Vertasi Barbara Vincent Carolyn & James Walters Thomas Ward Sharon & Rex Warren Katie & Thomas Weir Matthew Weiss Rosemary Weistart Nancy Wells Peter & Anna Wenz Christian White Nicole & Blake White **Becky Whitlow** Cara Wiley Kenneth & Donna Wille Chris Williams Amy & Matthew Williams Katie & Jason Williams Jacqueline Williams Mary Williams Rebecca & Olivia Williams Stephanie Williams Veralee Williams Jennifer & Rex Williamson Kari Wolf Penny Wollan Kriel **Brittany Workman** Carl Wray Elizabeth Wright Russell Yonda Ron Young Georgia Young Jeremy Zemaitis

Richard & Jan Zepp

Brandi Tollev

#### **Designated Giving**

#### **Donors to Local Arts and Arts Education** Fund

Steve & Chris Bedford Blaine & Kelly Bedolli Robert & Julie Blythe Stan & Sallee Butzow George W. Curry Jim Dallavis Chip Deiss **Gerahd Emery** Barbara Ferrara Sam & Mary Lou Fugate Jennifer Gallas Janet & Richard Gooch Dr. Jeff & Mrs. Sandra Lorber Linda McCall Larry Moore Frank & Geri Ramirez Jovce K. Schroeder Tammy Spradlin

The Family of Mrs.

Elizabeth C. Stalev

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#### Donor to Our Stage / Our **Voices Fund** Linda Tice

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Marcia Wherry

#### **Broadway Media Sponsors**







#### Grants





A special thank you to **Clark & Carol Esarey and** Teresa Szabo who supported upgrading our listening assistance and image magnification systems.

### In Their Words



Donors reflect on what motivates them to give and support the UIS Performing Arts Center.



Teresa Szabo



**Bob Staley with UIS PAC staff** 



I'm so glad that my gift to Performing Arts Services will enhance the experience of so many. I'm excited to help bring all of the wonderful events held at UIS PAC up to a more integrative experience between the audience and performers.

— Teresa Szabo

The UIS
Performing Arts
Center is really
quite a treasure
for Springfield and
the whole area.

— Bob Staley

The UIS Performing Arts Center brings world class entertainment to our own backyard, right here in Springfield. We love the venue, the variety of shows, the staff and volunteers. If we're going to continue to attract great performers, we need to ensure that we have a beautiful and up-to-date facility; not only for the performer's sake, but so that we can attract an audience that will support and attend the shows.

— Steve & Jodie Koch

A Taste of Ireland

## Volunteers



Our Volunteer Association is a dedicated group of individuals who generously give of their time and talents, helping us create memorable performing arts experiences for our community.







#### **UIS Performing Arts Center** Volunteer **Association**

Manager + Advisory Board ^



Evelyn Beenenga Farl Schroeder +

#### 30+ Years of Service

Susan Becker + Debbie Held + Jan Hill Jan Horton Rita Nortrup

#### 25+ Years of Service

Karen Devlin Joyce Gibbons Dave Hicks + Gene Scott lanet 7immerman

La Vonne Noska

#### 20+ Years of Service Dean Clough

Martha Clough Bernie Coleman + Maria Ferraro + Joan Ladage Rebecca Senkus + Emmett Slingsby + Janet Slingsby + Donna Wille

#### 15+ Years of Service

Fernando Ares + Dan Brown Lynn Brown Sheva Forbes Nancy Gillespie + Violet Goodman + Dee Hoover + Jim Hoover + Diane Kirkham Linda McCall +^ Cindy Moreno Mary Morris Joyce Schroeder + Barb Senalik



Lori Spear Pat Weitekamp + Marcia Wherry

10+ Years of Service Lillian Beams Julie Benoit Art Bowden + ^ Jeanne Eilering Teri Fink ^ Betty Garlisch Rosemary Gilbert Mary Gleason Carol Hanson Jerry Hanson Sue Houston Sharron LaFollette + Lorri Lawton Tom Lawton Karen Leinum ^ Marie Murfin Judy Rader ^ Carroll Richards ^ David Rowell Janet Rowell Dale Smith Kathy Smith Gary Starr

#### **Fewer Than 10 Years** of Service

Debbie Adkins Debra Alexander Julie Alexander Jan Andrews Kathie Ault Gail Austin Colleen Avars Sara Bachmann Gary Bacon Sue Bacon Coreen Ball Marcia Barnard Debi Barr-Holquist



**Patty Broyles** Jim Burton Stacie Campbell Donna Canavan Mike Canavan **Cindy Candioto** John Carey + Deede Carev Ellen Carpenter Rance Carpenter Nancy Cawley Jane Chevalier Maggie Cluck Lori Cour Cathie Crim Gene Crim Terri Crowder **Karen Cummins** Mary Curtis Becky Czmyr Marsha Dallas Jim Dallavis Kathy Dauksza Phyllis Drury Lisa Duffey Theresa Duffin Paula Dunn Jon Dunn Karen Eickenberg **Curt Evov** Lori Flattery Angie Foley Mike Folev John Fox Gidget Freeberg Rita Friedewald Russ Friedewald Jackie Frost

Debbie Fry

Susan Hampton Diana Hetherington **Dwain Hill** Mary Hofmann Merle Imler Lori locca Tina Joerger Diane Johnston **Carl Jones** Timothy Kearney Grea Kelso Lauri Kerns Susan Kessler Kvla Kruse + Terri LeMasters Suzie Lewis John Lex Sandy Lex Jane Locascio Deb Locher Patrick Long Rhonda Long Joyce Ludwig Lori Markey Floann Martinez Maggie Mathenia Carol Matheson Linda McClain Kevin McClain Shirley McGlennon Arthur Meyer Kathy Mever Margaret Moore Nancy Moore **Debbie Neathery** Terry Neathery Craig Neighbors **Rusty Overturf** 

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Holly Woodhall

Mary Ann Paulis

Dan Petrone



**Betsy O'Brien: Inspired by Volunteers** 

They are a part of our identity and we are a part of theirs.

etsy O'Brien is the Guest Services Manager for the UIS Performing Arts Center, and her role encompasses everything "front of house." That means if it's not performers on the stage or backstage operations, it's her responsibility. One of the key pieces to her success is the UIS Performing Arts Center Volunteer Association (PAVA). This group of over 200 people volunteers their time and talent to greet, direct, assist, and ensure the safety and comfort of all patrons attending performances and other events in Sangamon Auditorium and the Studio Theatre.

During the 2024–2025 season, PAVA committed a total of 9,096 volunteer hours, which averages 46 hours per volunteer. The highest amount contributed by a single volunteer (Art Bowden) was 198 hours across over 48 events. The volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and ages. They have different areas of expertise, but all are committed to the UIS Performing Arts Center. In fact, in April, the volunteers voted to make a \$50,000 pledge to the 2nd Act Campaign—giving not only of their time and talent, but also their resources.

Betsy says that working with volunteers is extremely fun. "Most of them have been here longer than me and know this place—know our audiences. I learn so much from them." For Betsy, working with volunteers is the highlight of her job. She looks forward to event nights and the moments of downtime when she can find a pocket of volunteers chatting. "The main reason they volunteer is an enjoyment of the performing arts and they want to help their community, but they are a highly social group and frequently convince their friends to volunteer as well. You never know what stories you're going to hear or what you'll learn about the history of this place."

The majority of the volunteer corps is retired, and Betsy is taking notes. "They are my inspiration. They are active and many volunteer at other organizations besides ours." Betsy says they are a testament to our organization. "They are a part of our identity and we are a part of theirs. We're about to have our second volunteer hit 40 years of service. For an organization that has only been in operation 44 years—that's pretty impressive."

For more information about volunteering at the UIS Performing Arts Center, visit: UISpac.com/volunteer-opportunities

# Administrative Staff

Sarah Brewer Director of Development

Shannon Brown Ticket Sales Specialist

Jennie Davis Assistant Guest Services Manager

Chip Deiss Office Support Specialist and Stagehand

Briana Fulton Business Manager

Sarah Haasis Ticket Sales Specialist

David Hecht Production Manager

Justine Moser Education Programs Coordinator

Meetra Moyer Assistant Production Manager

Betsy O'Brien Guest Services Manager

Bryan Rives Director

Carly Shank Artistic Programs Director

**Shannon Smith Ticket Office Manager** 

Joe Taylor Stage Foreman

Jen Tibbs-Berle Marketing Manager









# Part-Time Staff

#### Extra-Help Event Attendants and Stagehands

Brian Aarup Wesley Abbott Ugonna Achilike Sarah Adams David Adamski Candee Arvin Mario Austin Matthew Ballentine Rebecca Bettis

Guru Ruthvik Boggavarapu Alexander Borisov Kendra Brown Benjamin Buckles Janet Butler Elisa Buzzoni Ace Cannon Roger Carr **Chancy Chestnut** Mark Cole Justin Costello Samantha Cox Brian Crowdson Daniel Cunningham James Dahlquist David Darneille Alexander Davis Eliiah Davis Michael Davis **Noah Davis Zachary Davis** Rebecca Dobbs Ann Dunn Michael Dunn Brea Elston Michael Elston Jacob Estabrook Alaine Ewing Nancy Ferguson Teri Fink Samuel Foote

**Sherry Foote** 

William J Geiger William T Geiger Patrick Gilbert Kiev Glasscock Lindy Hall Kevin Hamm Thomas Harvill Mark Haves Patricia Headman Rebekah Hecht Kevin Henson Madison Hertz Christopher Higgins Jill Hiler Melissa Hill Donald Honigman Jennifer Hopper Shannon Hughes Daniel lams Nancy Iberg Miracle Ivv Victoria Johnson Kathy Johnston Glenn Jones Melody Jones Ruth Jorgensen Casey Julseth Divya Jyothi Kandepu Alexander Kasper Natalie Keller Virginia Klemm Sarah Kline Stacy Kolaz **Emily Kouzios** Jennifer Krueger Jerry Krumme Kevin Kulavic Richard Kuschel Paul Lamantia

Rvan Lamantia

7ach Landes

Frank Lane

Kevin Ford

Samuel Fugate

Leeann Gathard

**Dominick Garrison** 



Dennis Leach Ally Lisnek Richard Livingston Sarah Livingston Rebecca Logerquist Isabelle Lynn Martin Maletich Elijah Matthews John McAdams Stephen McCaffrey Robert McKeown Jathan Moyer Nicholas Mulcahy **Audrey Murphy** Timothy Nielsen John Nussbaum Godwin Ofurum Mary Oseland Jacob Pahde Lawrence Perko Tamara Pettit Angela Pryer Michelle Pulce-Flynn Lauren Pumphrey James Rapps Katherine Risse Jenna Robinson Deidre Rosenberger Dora Rotello Ryan Ruettiger Tracy Rusnak Abigail Schafer Lydia Schillinger Sarah Schneider Katie Schumacher Keith Schumacher Matthew Scrivano

**Edward Seelbach** 

Jacob Seiber

Katherine Seketa **Rvan Shadis Brett Shores** Mark Sims Jacob Smith Juliann Spradlin Alex Taft Stephen Tankerslev Ashlev Towal Molly Vasconcelles Flizabeth Verzo Meredith Vogel-Thomas Sharon Warren Traci Wells **Garrett West** Matthew West Courtney Wick **Anthony Williams DeWayne Williams** Janet Williams Matthew Williams Cari Wilmert Regena Wilson Samantha Wiseman Donald Wisniewski

#### UIS Student Employees

Trace Boyd Marie Haccandy Grace Henry Abhinav Mekkonda Thi Tra My Nguyen Gracie Orme Patricia Ortega Rahulrraj Pamula Rosa Sanchez Abhijay Singh

#### **ANNUAL FIGURES**

#### **INCOME STATEMENT**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Revenue retained from FY24	\$23,876	Salaries & Wages	\$1,319,387
Correction to FY24 reporting	(\$604)	Artist Fees	\$383,860
FY25 Operating Revenue: Ticket Sales State Support Facility Rentals Restricted 2nd Act Campaign Gifts Other Grants & Gifts Earnings on Endowment & Special Funds Ticketing Fees FRIENDS Annual Fund	\$820,338 \$480,612 \$445,817 \$257,997 \$210,332 \$244,101 \$153,470 \$141,370	Event Expenses Marketing Expenses Materials & Supplies Capital Projects/Maintenance Equipment Administrative Expenses Fundraising Expenses Concession Stand Cost of Goods Sold TOTAL EXPENSE	\$310,802 \$152,743 \$94,209 \$74,535 \$68,583 \$55,181 \$33,526 \$30,559 <b>2,523,385</b>
Concession Stand	\$107,122	Unrestricted Net Income Carried Forward to FY26	\$134,249
Other Earned Revenue	\$31,210	Restricted Net Income (gifts/grants)	, - 7
Total FY25 Operating Revenue	\$2,892,359	Carried Forward to FY26	\$257,997
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,915,631	Net Income Carried Forward to FY25	\$392,246

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

BALANCE SHEET			
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION (UIF) FUNDS	6/30/2024	6/30/2025	
ENDOWMENTS BALANCES			
UIS Helen Hamilton Performing Arts Endowment for Youth Fund	\$268,300	\$268,300	
UIS Auditorium Endowment Fund	\$266,247	\$266,247	
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	
UIS Gloria Calovini Endowment Fund	\$44,161	\$44,161	
QUASI ENDOWMENTS BALANCES			
UIS Staley Class Acts Sangamon Auditorium	\$762,326	\$792,326	
UIS Auditorium Fund	\$172,221	\$257,221	
UIS James L. Lundquist Endowment Fund	\$12,500	\$12,500	
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS UIF FUNDS	\$1,650	\$22,030	
TOTAL FUNDS AT UIF	\$2,079,303	\$2,214,683	
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FUNDS			
Operating / Maintenance Reserves	\$9,662	\$76,741	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — Piano Maintenance Fund	\$5,852	\$5,372	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — Wireless Mics Fund	\$5,601	_	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — Class Acts Donor Fund	\$538	\$447	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — IMAG & Assisted Listening	_	\$59,592	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — Infrared Camera System	_	\$4,245	
Sangamon Auditorium Special Projects — Unrestricted Interest Earnings	. —	\$836	
Endowment Earnings Unspent	\$532	\$765	
Other Annual Gifts	\$12,897	\$71,182	
Restricted 2nd Act Campaign Gifts	<del>-</del>	\$243,557	
Youth Outreach Program Fund	\$374	\$374	
Sangamon Auditorium Angel Tickets Fund	\$40	\$40	
TOTAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FUNDS	\$35,496	\$463,151	
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS	\$2,114,799	\$2,677,834	

#### In Memoriam



#### Alvera M. Knox

1936-2023

The honor the life and legacy of Alvera M. Knox, whose lifelong dedication to education and community left an indelible mark on Springfield and beyond. Alvera's distinguished career as an educator and librarian spanned decades, from teaching in California and Colorado to serving for 26 years in Springfield District 186. A passionate advocate for learning, literacy, and social justice, she played a key role in developing the Springfield Race Riot Walking Tour and educational resources to teach students about this pivotal history. Alvera's love of reading, travel, gardening, and birdwatching reflected her deep curiosity and zest for life. She supported numerous organizations, including the Illinois Audubon Society and Sangamon County Historical Society. In a final act of generosity, Alvera remembered the UIS Performing Arts Center in her estate, ensuring her legacy of enriching lives through the arts will continue to inspire our community for years to come. She will be deeply missed.

40 | UIS Performing Arts Center

