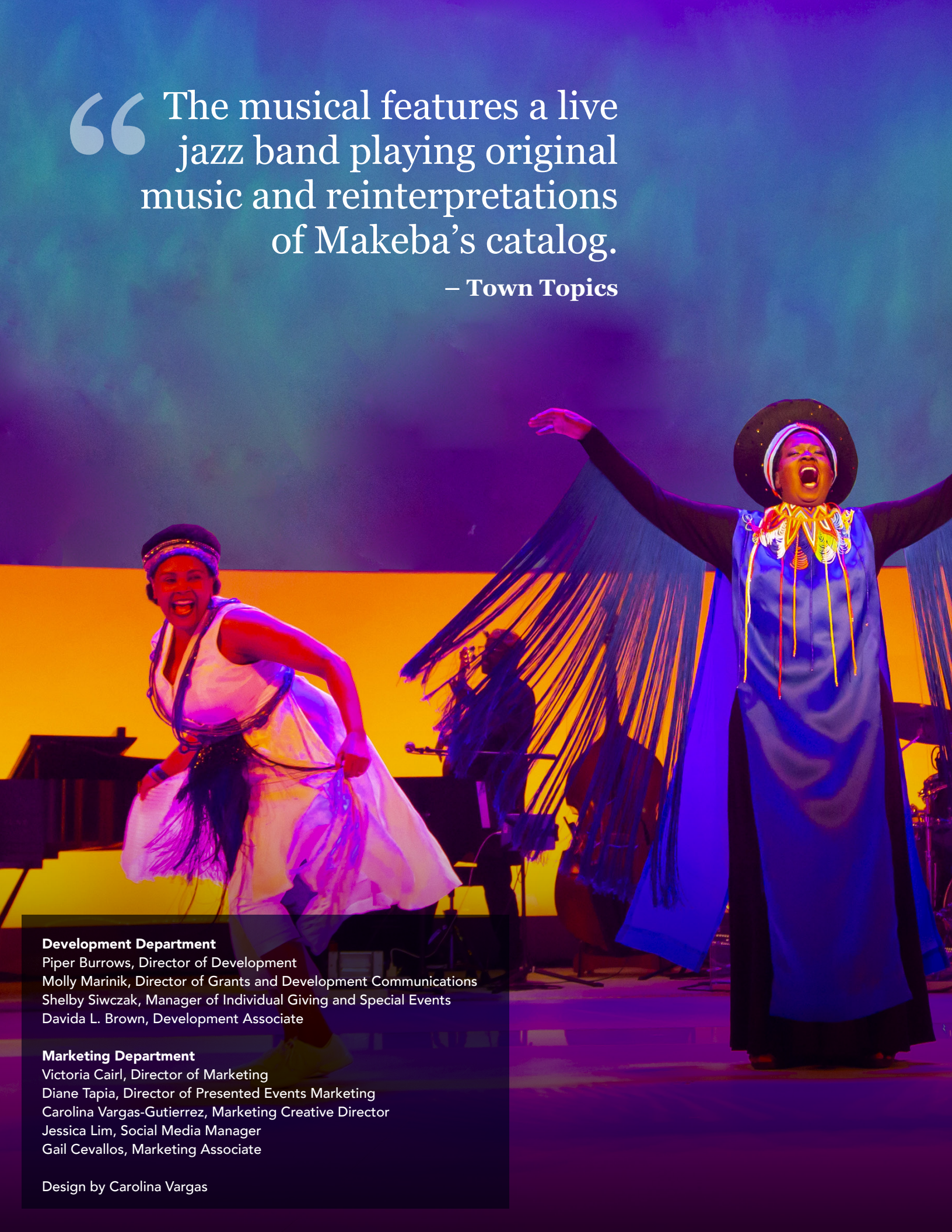


McCarter

2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

“ The musical features a live jazz band playing original music and reinterpretations of Makeba’s catalog.

– Town Topics



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Design by Carolina Vargas



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*Dreaming Zenzile. Center Somi Kakoma.
Photo by T. Charles Erickson*

Leadership at McCarter

In Fall 2020, McCarter welcomed our new Artistic Director **Sarah Rasmussen** after an extensive nationwide search. Sarah was previously Artistic Director at the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis where she commissioned, directed and produced new work. She was named Star Tribune's Artist of the Year. With in-person programming on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic during Sarah's first season at McCarter, the 2021-22 Season truly introduced Sarah's artistic vision and incredible skill as a director.

Managing Director **Michael S. Rosenberg** marked his fourth season at McCarter during 2021-22. Mike was previously Managing Director at La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego where he led the organization through a time of considerable growth. Prior to that he spent several years working in the New York theater world.

Bill Lockwood has curated McCarter's Presented Series for 59 years, delighting and surprising our audiences. Bill's reputation for identifying promising new artists and programming some of the world's greatest performers is unparalleled.



Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen. Photo by Mark Garvin.



Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg. Photo by Matt Pilsner.



Special Programming Director Bill Lockwood.
Photo by Matt Pilsner.

Artistic Programming



112

Performances

53

Presented Events

3

Theater Productions

2

New Musicals

1

Digital Reading Series
with 4 Play Readings

Ashlyn Maddox as Jane Doe and Jeffrey Binder
as The Amazing Karnak in *Ride the Cyclone*.
Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

2021-2022 Theater Programming

This season marked our return to in-person programming after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We curated an exciting line-up of diverse offerings, all while prioritizing the safety of our artists, audiences, and staff. Out of an abundance of caution, we scheduled our theatrical programming for the second half of the year and abbreviated our offerings. The three ambitious and affecting shows in our season welcomed audiences back to our venue with entertaining, thought-provoking stories.



Cassie Beck in the North American Tour of *What The Constitution Means To Me*. Photo by Joan Marcus.

What The Constitution Means To Me

By Heidi Schreck
Directed by Oliver Butler

National Tour
December 7-12, 2021

A hit show in New York both on and off Broadway, this boundary-breaking play breathes new life into the U.S. Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of Americans.



Somi Kakoma in *Dreaming Zenzile*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Dreaming Zenzile

Written and Performed by Somi Kakoma
Directed by Liliana Blain-Cruz
Co-Production with St. Louis Rep, National Black Theater, New York Theater Workshop

January 15-February 13, 2022

A musical portrait of singer and activist Miriam Makeba, this new musical is gloriously conceived and performed by international music sensation Somi Kakoma.



Ride The Cyclone

Written by Brooke Maxwell and Jacob Richmond
Directed by Sarah Rasmussen

April 30-May 29, 2022

A darkly funny musical that explores themes of grief, loss, and living one’s best life, Ride the Cyclone follows a high school choir that embarks on a tragic ride at a carnival. This production marked Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen’s directing debut at McCarter.

Sponsored by PNC Wealth Management

Katerina McCrimmon as Ocean O’Connell Rosenberg in *Ride the Cyclone*.
Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

||| Bard at the Gate

**Digital Theater at McCarter
BARD AT THE GATE**

Co-curated by Nicole A. Watson and Paula Vogel



How to Raise a Freeman

How to Raise a Freeman

by Zakiyyah Alexander; directed by Reginald L. Douglas

Sonnets for an Old Century

written and directed by José Rivera

Charles Francis Chan Jr.’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery

by Lloyd Suh; directed by Ralph B. Peña

Passing

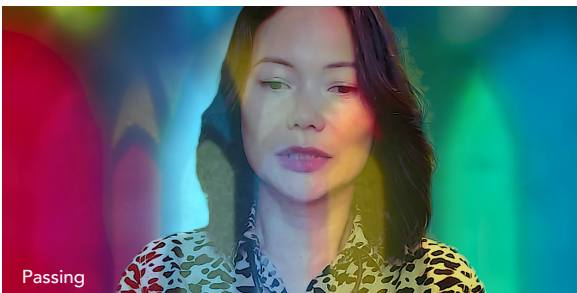
by Dipika Guha; directed by Nicole A. Watson



Charles Francis Chan Jr.’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery

This revolutionary digital reading series was conceived and launched by award winning playwright Paula Vogel in 2020 to uplift incredible, lesser-known plays written by BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA+, and disabled writers. Now in its second season (and first in partnership with McCarter), Bard at the Gate is building an archive of professionally filmed digital readings to be shared with theater-makers, educators, and communities nationwide.

Sponsored by The Sallie B. Goodman Fund and The Vogel Vanguard Circle (Roz and Jerry Meyer, Daryl Roth, Liz Armstrong, Larry Hirschhorn and Melissa Posen)



Passing

“While Bard at the Gate began as a very personal effort, our partnership with McCarter has really propelled this project forward. It has already begun to have a national impact by increasing accessibility to brilliant plays that belong in the seasons of regional theatres nationwide and in high school and college classrooms. A beautiful benefit of digital theater is that it can be accessed from anywhere and we’ve already seen that in action. The entire McCarter team, including Sarah and Nicole, are dream collaborators to grow the reach of Bard at the Gate and bring the work of these incredible writers further into the theatrical canon.” –Paula Vogel

2021-22 Presented Series



Community members participate in a free event with Garba 360.
Photo by Carolina Vargas

41 Performances

This season we hosted wonderful talents on both our Matthews and Berlind stages. The season began with a celebratory concert by the legendary **Béla Fleck: My Bluegrass Heart**. Audiences were delighted by artists new to McCarter like **Lake Street Dive** and **J’Nai Bridges**, along with familiar favorites including **Kelli O’Hara**, **Rosanne Cash**, **Keb ’Mo**, **Seong-Jin Cho**, **Audra McDonald**, and **Triveni**.



Jazz in June

Our annual Jazz in June festival returned with a wonderful line-up: **Joshua Redman 3x3**, **Christian Sands Quartet**, **Helen Sung Quartet**, **Jazzmeia Horn**, **Dee Dee Bridgewater & Charlap**, **Tyshawn Sorey Quintet**.

6 Dance Performances

A variety of dance styles and artistry took the stage as we featured artists like **Mark Morris Dance Group**, **Memphis Jookin'**, **Dorrance Dance: SOUNDspace**, **Kyle Abraham**, and **Pam Tanowitz Dance** with **Simone Dinnerstein**. We also hosted an outdoor dance experience to kick off our season, with the inspiring performance **Garba360**, including a spirited and inclusive presentation and lesson in Gujarati dance.



Pam Tanowitz Dance.
Photo by Erin Baiano.

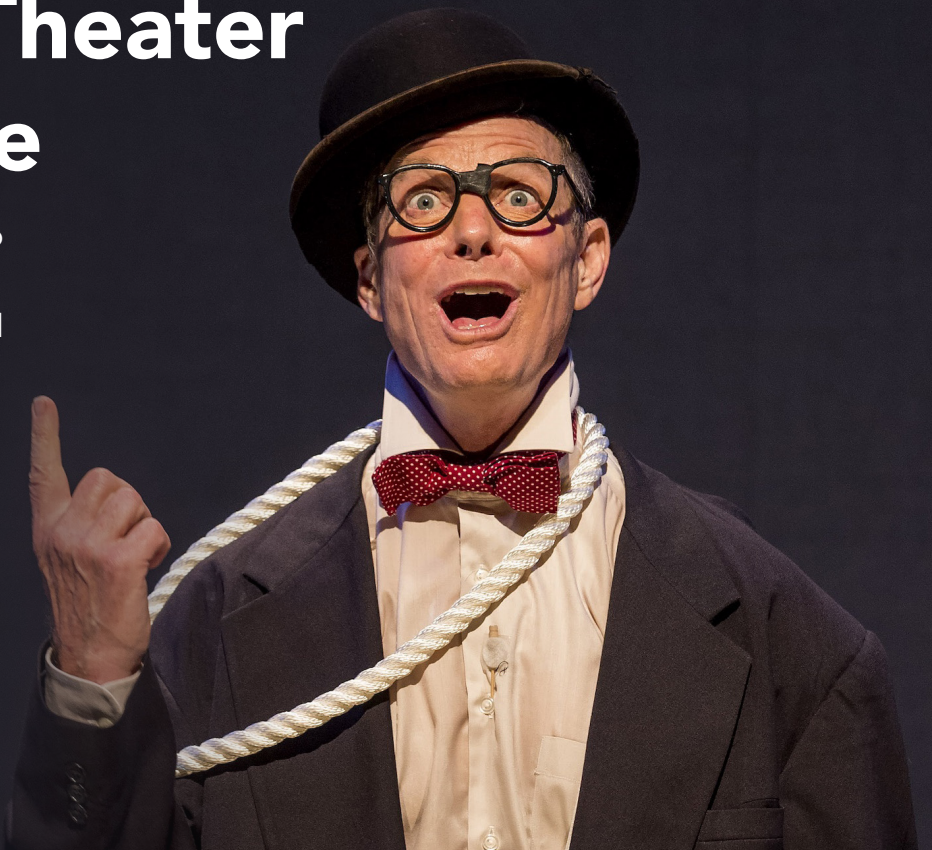
5 Spoken Word

McCarter favorites like **David Sedaris** and **The Moth** performed to the delight of our audiences. We also welcomed the **National Geographic Live** series, with a series digging into themes including big cats, whales, and women throughout history.



Additional Theater Performance

For one night only we were happy to present in association with the Lewis Center for the Arts the incredible **Bill Irwin** and his show "*On Beckett*." This was an Irish Repertory Theatre Production.



McCarter in the Community

Throughout the year, we engaged with our many community partners, providing arts education to participants from organizations like the Trenton Branch NAACP ACT-SO program, CrossRoads4Hope, HomeFront, the Children’s Home Society, and others. Led by our Artistic Engagement Manager Paula Alekson, this programming is available all-season long through a variety of customized opportunities.



“The students and their families truly appreciated the opportunity to see the play. The cast and music were phenomenal. While I have known Miriam Makeba to be a powerhouse on the stage and in her activism, to now know the struggle and heartache she had to endure truly puts it all in perspective.”

–Amanda Winfield-Summiel, Trenton Branch NAACP ACT-SO, after bringing a group of youth and their families to see Dreaming Zenzile

In November, we held the **Paula Vogel Boot Camp and Bake-Off**, which gathered a diverse and inclusive group of 50 writers aged 14-83. They participated in a free 2-day workshop with Paula, which culminated in each participant writing a 10-minute play with “ingredients” based on **A Christmas Carol**. Of these plays, 10 were selected to be read aloud by professional actors in a public Festival of Plays on December 15, 2021.

A Christmas Carol Bake-Off Festival of Playsreading. Photo by Roy Matusek.



Education

Arts Education at McCarter reaches thousands of learners each year through dozens of classes and programs taking place at the theater and out in the community and local schools. 2021-22 continued some of the previous year's pandemic-related challenges, making it more difficult to serve students due to precautions and changing guidelines. Nevertheless, our education programs served over 1,500 learners of all ages throughout the year. Through the strong relationships we maintain with our partner schools and organizations, we were able to offer programming that met the needs of our students in a unique year.

New Programming: Anti-Bullying Workshops

This year, we launched our new anti-bullying workshops, designed to give young people a chance to step into someone else's shoes to grow emotional and social awareness and build empathy skills. These in-school workshops are designed for elementary schoolers took place IN 19 K-3 classrooms during spring 2022. Additionally, a public anti-bullying workshop was held at our theater in April and attended by 45 children and adults as part of the NJTA Stages Festival.

1500
students

33
after-school classes at McCarter

21
classrooms in Trenton and Princeton
public schools enjoyed in-school
programming

\$29,000
in scholarships provided

“

“The [anti-bullying] workshop was a huge hit with our 3rd graders. The performers did a great job striking a balance between being in and out of character in order to involve students and were adept at handling the age group. Our students were engrossed in the story and so excited to have a chance to participate. I was highly impressed with the power of the drama to engage students. I've never experienced anything quite like this!”

– Robin Minden, counselor at Johnson Park Elementary School

Thank you to our wonderful Arts Education supporters: the Charles Evans Foundation, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., Johnson and Johnson Family of Companies, NJM Insurance Group, Princeton Area Community Foundation, and the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Our 2022 Gala Celebrated the Roaring Twenties!

What a delight to be back with an in-person Gala in our big tent on McCarter's lawn. With a Roaring Twenties theme, we enjoyed our Gala performance in the Matthews Theatre with the incomparable jazz vocalist Gregory Porter, then made our way back to the tent for dinner and dancing.



Gregory Porter (top left); Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen and Board President W. Rochelle Calhoun (top right); Associate Artistic Director Nicole A. Watson with Sarah (bottom right); Anu Bhat, Board Member Neha Shah, and Sandeep Bhat (bottom left).

McCarter's Gala

2022



McCarter's Gala 2022

DIAMOND (\$25,000+)

Daniela Bonafede-Chhabra and Ashvin Chhabra
Lori Martin and Christopher Eisgruber
Edward E. Matthews and Vilma Keri

EMERALD (\$15,000)

Timothy M. Andrews

RUBY (\$6,000)

Christiana Foglio-Palmer and
Douglas Palmer
Kathleen and Tim Nolan
W. Ivan Wright

OPAL (\$1,000)

Sharon Dietrich and Kabir Nath
Eileen Galton
Meg and Tom Gorrie
Rita and John McGrath
Joann Mitchell
Katherine Roeder
Ginny Mason and Robert Willig

PEARL (\$300)

Akira Bell and Linda Blackburn
Elizabeth Collier
Bob Durkee
Ann Fletcher
J. Robert Hillier
Debra Hinlicky and David Miller
Douglas R. Honnold
Dr. John Jackson and
Ms. Barbara Furman
Christopher and
Robin Kemper
Mrs. Vincent Lipani
Orlandi Family
Eliot Quataert and
Allison Fletcher
Caroline and Ken Smith

SAPPHIRE (\$10,000)

Neha and Shalin Shah

JADE (\$1,500)

W. Rochelle Calhoun and
Robert R. Lussier
Roy "Trey" D. Farmer III
H. James and Carol Herring
Carol and Mark Pollard
Fran and Marty Siederer
Anne VanLent

AMETHYST (\$600)

Piper and Adam Burrows
Dr. Kerry Danielsen and
Jonathan Nelson
Ms. Sandra A. Friedman
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Lynn and Bob Johnston
John McCarthy
Brian J. McDonald
Betsy and Bernie McNeilly
Rohit Mehrotra
Rita and Robert Murray
Kerry Perretta
Karen and Andy Schmitt
Lisa Kristin Soren
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Williams

DONORS

We thank these individuals, who are unable to attend the Gala event for their generous contribution to McCarter in lieu of their attendance.

Huldah and Wyndham Anderson
Elliot Asarnow
Beth and Jim Branigan
Sarah Ringer
Ron and Sallye Zink

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

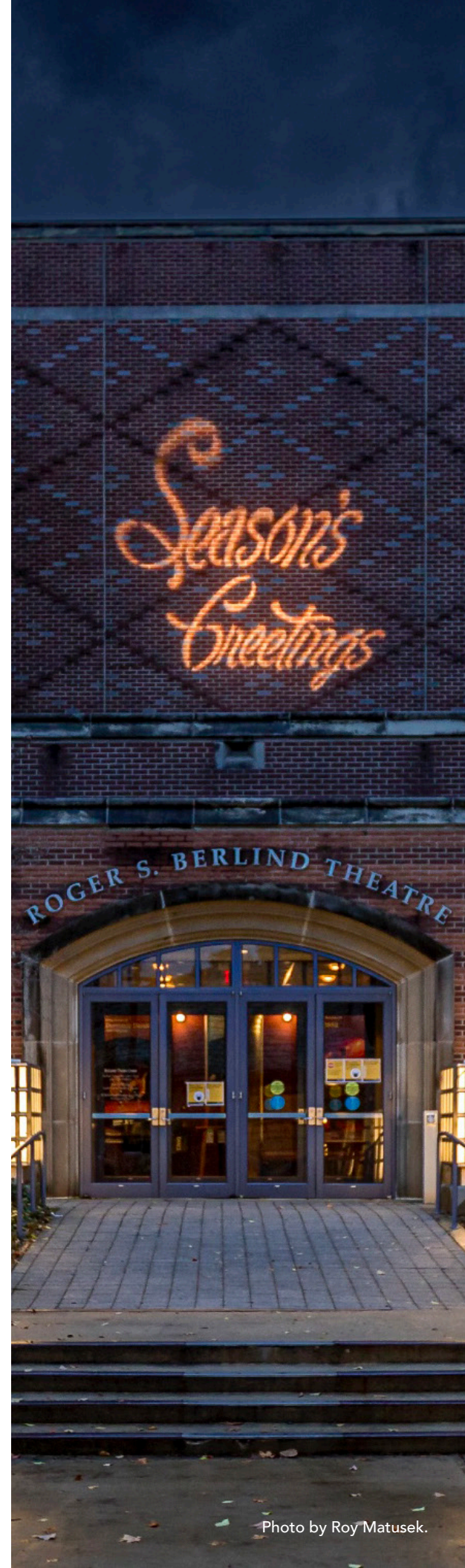
McCarter opened the 2021-22 season with a newly restated strategic plan, as well as mission statement and pronounced guiding values of "Justice, Joy, Beauty, and Belonging" and appointed a Director of Equity and Organizational Culture following an extensive nationwide search. Throughout the season, staff engaged in anti-racism training, gender inclusion workshops, as well as group and one-on-one discussions on EDIA-based growth and inter-personal learnings. The company also launched affinity groups, including a dedicated space for BIPOC-identified staff, providing opportunities for connection and support.

Staff and board worked together to revamp annual performance reviews to emphasize open communication, goal setting, and accountability, introducing personal 'user guides' to document and communicate how each individual person works and communicates as their whole self.

At the close of the season, the company designated a new, full-time Human Resources staff member, a first for the McCarter.

McCarter continues to work towards ensuring that its physical space and artistic offerings are accessible to all. Experts led sessions on accessibility and disability awareness, particularly in relation to our visiting artists and their involvement in productions.

The search for a dynamic new Director of Special Programming also concluded with the hiring of Paula Abreu. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Abreu brings a reputation for embracing creative diversity and representing a wide range of forward-thinking and international acts on stage following her tenure at New York's SummerStage and Charlie Parker Jazz Festivals. Her hiring ushers in McCarter's next chapter of programmatic vision along with distinctive experiences and voices on its stages.



Individual Donors

Thank you to all of our incredible donors. We remain grateful for your thoughtful and generous support of our work.

Grand Impresarios

(\$50,000+)

Courtney Lederer and Mark Thierfelder
Edward E. Matthews and Vilma Keri
Kathleen and Tim Nolan

Impresarios

(\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Ashley and George Aitken-Davies
Timothy M. Andrews
Lori Martin and Christopher Eisgruber
Anonymous
Anonymous

Guarantors

(\$15,000 - \$24,999)

Susan and Mark Brennan
Cynthia and Bob Hendrickson
Kathy and Jamie Herring
Jacquie and Woody Phares
Katherine Snider
Anonymous

Grand Sponsors

(\$10,000 - \$14,999)

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Marissa and Jesse Treu
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Angels

(\$7,500 - \$9,999)

The David R. and Patricia D. Atkinson
Foundation
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Producers

(\$5,000 - \$7,499)

Elliot Asarnow
Marcia E. Bossart
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Rochelle Calhoun and Robert Lussier
Jessica and Doug Chia
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Shuma Panse and Jaydeep Bhatt
Kerry Perretta
Sarah Ringer
Karen and Andy Schmitt
Janice and Harold Stone
Leanne and Dave Trent

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(\$3,000 - \$4,999)

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Priscilla and Bill Russel
Lisa Skeete Tatum and Mark Tatum
Fiona and Viv Tyndall
Dimitra and Thomas Varouhakis
Myra and Van Williams

* PACF denotes Princeton Area
Community Foundation

List as of June 30, 2022

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As of June 30, 2022

Grand Maestros (\$100,000+)

New Jersey State Council on the Arts/
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Princeton University
BOLD Theater Women's
Leadership Circle

Grand Impresarios (\$50,000 - \$74,999)

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Impresarios (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

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Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
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Directors (\$3,000-\$4,999)

Wawa Foundation

McCarter Theatre Center 2021-2022

Public Support

Contributions	\$2,963,231
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant	\$3,606,738
Princeton University Support	\$660,334
Operating Distributions from Investment	\$1,973,292
In-Kind Support	\$1,163,264
Gala Revenue (net of expenses)	\$60,935
Total Contributed Income	\$10,427,794

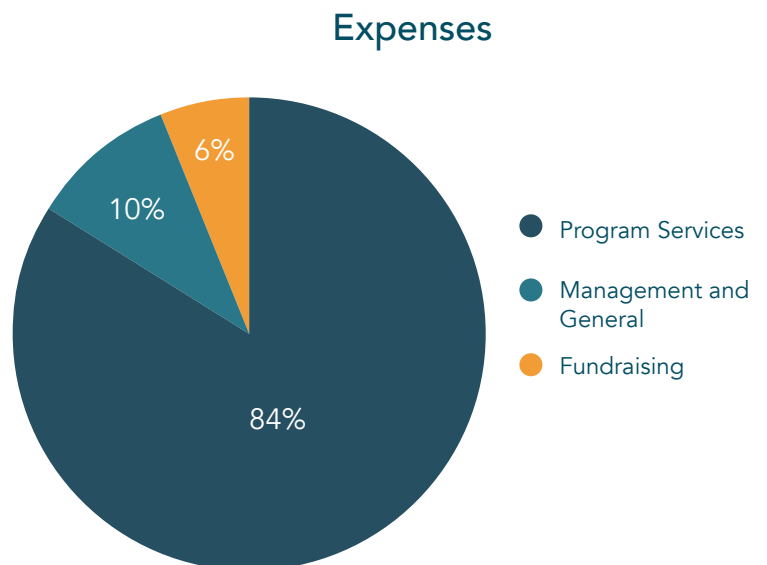
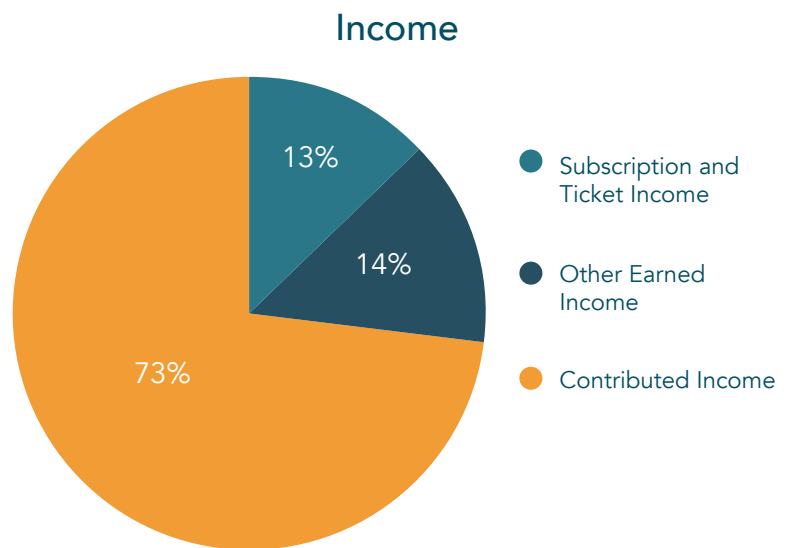
Other Revenue

Subscription & Ticket Income	\$1,863,005
PPP1/PPP2 Loan Forgiveness	\$659,833
Co-Production Income	\$332,655
Rental Income	\$278,766
Production Shop Income	\$266,968
Employee Retention Credit Income	\$262,030
Tuition Income	\$208,182
Other Revenue	\$75,912
Total Other Revenue	\$3,947,351

Operating Expenses

Program Services	\$10,283,179
Management & General	\$1,216,513
Fundraising	\$619,875
Total Expenses	\$12,119,567

Total Operating Surplus/(Deficit) \$2,255,578



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