



2023-2024

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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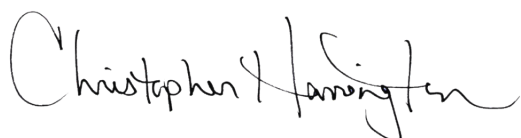


The Ordway has always been more than just a venue; it's a community, a gathering place where creativity, culture, and connection come to life. The artistic programming for the 2023-2024 season reflects our promise to offer a wide variety of performances designed to delight and inspire audiences of all ages.

Broadway legends like Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin dazzled and Jamecia Bennett, herself a Grammy Award-winning performer, brought the house down. Classic Albums Live returned with their note-for-note take on Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours*. A new production of *Peter Pan* took flight at the holidays, launching a 50 city tour from right here at the Ordway, and *Come From Away* touched hearts when it touched down on the Music Theater stage. Students and educators made their way to the Ordway for 23 school performances, and the Flint Hills Family Festival welcomed 24,355 children and their families over the course of five days. Through it all, the connection and community created at these presentations and events was undeniable. The ringing applause after each thrilling number, the laughter in the lobbies, excited conversations during intermissions, and overheard questions of "when are we coming back together?" tell the story. These moments are what make an Ordway experience truly special, and they would not be possible without your support.

Moving into our 40th season, we remain committed to fulfilling Sally Ordway Irvine's vision of a wide array of arts experiences for everyone. She put it best when she said the Ordway should be "a place for lots of music—no, lots of everything! And for everybody!" Together, let us continue to foster an environment where creativity thrives and where every person can find their place within the world of performance.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant community. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and advocacy and look forward to the many more memories we will create together in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher Harrington | Ordway President & CEO

2023-2024

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Without the investment and involvement of the individuals and institutions listed in this Report to the Community, the 2023-2024 season would not have been possible. Their contributions underscored that together we can make so much happen, including bringing stories, both new and beloved, to life on stage. We all benefit from the power of the performing arts, especially when storytelling and shared artistic experiences create a sense of belonging.

Audiences ventured to Neverland and back at the holidays, celebrated the joy of imagination at family-focused programming, and glimpsed the future of the arts at the GreenRoom closing showcase. The arts unite, uplift, and inspire us all, and the generosity of donors means more people are able to have Ordway experiences of their own, whether at a musical theater matinee performance or outdoor concert during the Flint Hills Family Festival.

If you attended a show, made a donation, volunteered your time, or simply followed along on social media, thank you for helping us continue to share the transformative power of the arts. We are deeply grateful for everything you do to ensure that the arts continue to thrive at the Ordway.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PGH', written in a cursive, stylized font.

Patrick Garay-Heelan | Board Chair



2023-2024 SEASON

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

ORDWAY MUSIC THEATER

Patti LuPone in Concert: *Don't Monkey with Broadway*
Peter Pan
Hairspray

November 19, 2023
 December 6-31, 2023
 March 12*-17, 2024

*3/12 performance was cancelled

Malevo
On Your Feet!
Come From Away

March 21, 2024
 April 5-7, 2024
 June 7-16, 2024

ORDWAY CONCERT HALL

Behind the Curtain: Ever After in Concert
 Sphinx Virtuosi - *Generations*
 (AP Co-Production)

October 6-7, 2023
 October 15, 2023

Sons of Serendip - *Christmas: Beyond the Light*
 Jamecia Bennett and Friends: *A Night of Jazz, Blues,
 and a Whole Lotta Soul*

December 14, 2023

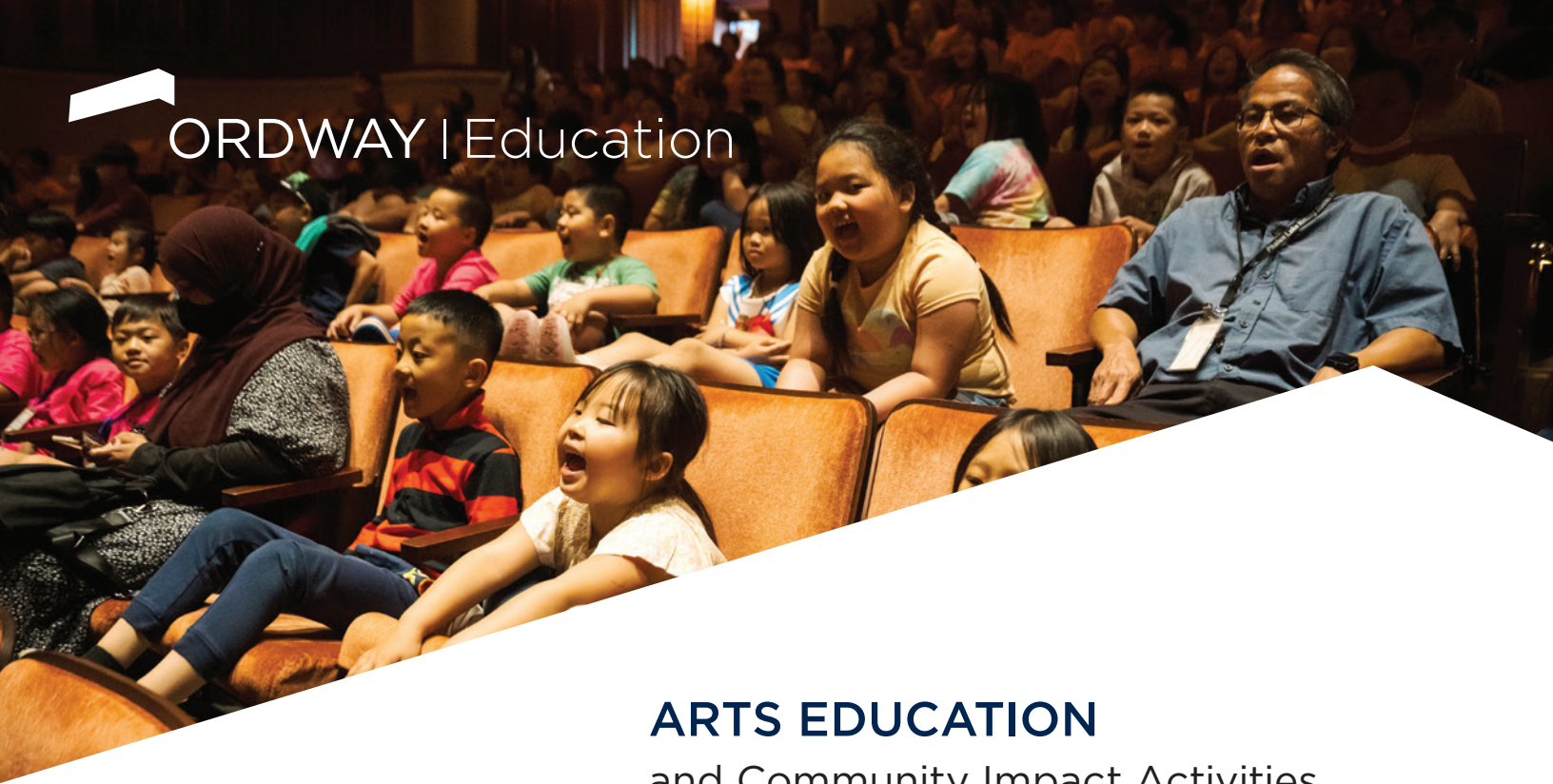
Classic Albums Live performs Fleetwood Mac: *Rumours*
 Mandy Patinkin In Concert: *Being Alive*

February 23, 2024
 March 23, 2024
 April 19 & 21, 2024



2023-2024 RENTALS

Dakota Cooks presents Herb Alpert	Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Dakota Cooks presents Pat Metheny	Wednesday, October 4, 2023
University of St. Thomas Band Concert	Sunday, October 22, 2023
Dakota Cooks presents Leo Kottke	Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs	Sunday, December 3, 2023
Pagnia Xiong presents <i>Pagnia in Love: Live in Concert</i>	Friday, December 15, 2023
Christmas with Cantus: Three Tales of Christmas	Friday, December 22, 2023
Saint Paul City Council Inauguration	Tuesday, January 9, 2024
38th Annual State of Minnesota Governor's Council	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration	Monday, January 15, 2024
Cantus and Canadian Brass	Sunday, February 25, 2024
TC Iranian Culture Collective presents <i>Voices Unveiled: A Nowruz Concert and Community Gathering</i>	Saturday, March 30, 2024
The Friends of the SPPL presents The Minnesota Book Awards	Tuesday, May 7, 2024
TaikoArts Midwest presents <i>Thrive</i>	Sunday, May 12, 2024
Blackout Improv presents <i>Juneteenth at the Ordway</i>	Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Securian All Company Meeting	February 14-15, 2024
Outback Presents: Leanne Morgan	February 24-25, 2024
One Voice Mixed Chorus presents <i>The Art of Joy</i>	June 23-24, 2024



ARTS EDUCATION and Community Impact Activities

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Ordway offered 23 school performances, with 222 school groups totalling 26,246 students in attendance. And engagement didn't just happen in the Ordway venue. Over 6,300 individuals participated in varied **Beyond the Stage** activities including artist-led workshops, special classroom sessions and community-based initiatives. To further enhance access, the Ordway's YouTube Channel, which features diverse local artists and supports teacher's curriculum, had 14,800 views throughout the school year.



"This is an invaluable opportunity for our students to experience a performance at a theater, as many have not. A beautiful venue which allows them to see diverse cultures. The affordable ticketing and bus reimbursement are so beneficial. I will absolutely be booking a trip every year for our students."



ORDWAY



GREENROOM

GreenRoom is a signature paid Ordway fellowship program that invests in underrepresented artists and celebrates their talents—so that they might impact and thrive in the world of musical theater.

The 2023 program provided an intensive and collaborative curriculum for eleven actors, singers, and dancers committed to expanding their skill set as musical theater artists.

In addition to the five GreenFaculty, the six-week summer training engaged 5 Master Artists, 6 Guest Artists and 17 guest speakers, including GreenRoom graduates.



Ordway's GreenRoom Fellows singing at the Saints game.

FELLOWS

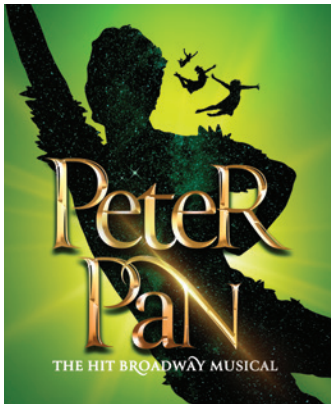
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Nadya Mojica
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LAUNCHING A NATIONAL TOUR with hope, trust, and fairy dust



DEC 6-31, 2023



If you look closely, there's a sprinkling of fairy dust lingering on the Ordway stage. It's leftover from the December 2023 production of *Peter Pan*, which delighted over 40,000 people at the Ordway before taking flight for a 50-city national tour. And while the production has moved on to the next destination, the magic of launching the tour in Saint Paul is still present.

One of the most undeniably exciting aspects of the show was when Peter and the Darling children flew out the nursery window, made their way to the second star on the right, and then straight on past morning. As the actors flitted and floated to Neverland, a crew of 32 skilled stagehands and technicians, all hailing from Minnesota, worked tirelessly to bring Neverland to life. Three of those stagehands were tasked with acting as a “backstage version” of Tinker Bell, responsible for lifting the children in the air by pulling on ropes. It was the first flying experience for all three stagehands, and they performed their roles with aplomb.

And no detail was too small for the dedicated team behind the scenes. They even experimented with three different types of confetti to find the best one to use as the perfect shower of sparkle over the audience at the end of each performance.

While they were here, the actors and creative team members made themselves at home in Saint Paul and explored the surrounding areas. The six cast members who were required to be in school for a certain number of hours each day set up school backstage at the Ordway. When he wasn't on stage as Peter Pan, Nolan Almeida could often be found doing homework in his dressing room! The chili at The Loon Café St. Paul became a favorite of the tour group, and most made the trek out to the Mall of America to see the famous Minnesota landmark for themselves.

It's clear that though *Peter Pan* was at the Ordway for just the holiday season, the effect it had on the Ordway—and vice-versa—cannot be forgotten.

ROYAL GARDEN GALA

JUNE 27, 2024



Guests at the Ordway Royal Garden Gala were treated to a celebration fit for a queen—or six!

The event featured a live auction, the opportunity to peruse Hans Holbein’s gallery, games that would delight a court jester, gourmet cuisine worthy of the royal court, and performances by members of the original Broadway cast of *SIX*.

The evening also celebrated Honorary Chairs Mark and Terri Henneman for their leadership and advocacy for the arts and downtown Saint Paul.

The Royal Garden Gala raised more than \$564,000 for a variety of Ordway artistic offerings, including accessible arts education programs that have a lasting impact on thousands of schoolchildren. Proceeds from the event also benefited the Arts Partnership—Minnesota Opera, Ordway, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Schubert Club—and its work to maintain the Ordway venue as a premier arts and cultural destination for everyone in the region.





FLINT HILLS family festival PRESENTED BY ORDWAY

MAY 28-JUNE 1, 2024

The 2024 Flint Hills Family Festival welcomed 24,355 children and their families from across the region into downtown Saint Paul to experience incredible performances of music, dance, theater, storytelling, and hands on art activities. The Festival featured:

- Low-cost indoor performances — 14 sold-out shows — with artists Davina and the Vagabonds, Cirque Kalabanté and Grammy-award winning duo 123 Andrés
- Free outdoor entertainment, with 271 locally based artists presenting 36 performances
- Kid-friendly art making activities, facilitated by a record 24 community partners
- Along with food trucks and public art in and around the Ordway, Landmark Center and Rice Park



Intercept surveys conducted during the Festival found:

90% of respondents agreed that

“Attending the Festival contributed to my feeling more connected to my community.”

99% of respondents agreed with the statement that

“The Festival is welcoming to individuals like me.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL VISIT

Not only did Family Festival performers delight audiences during indoor performances, but a new “Festival on the Road” component highlighted Festival artists in our community. 123 Andrés shared their joyful, interactive performance during an all-school assembly at Adams Elementary Immersion and a pre-Festival performance at Children’s Hospital, streamed into all the patient rooms, delighted children and staff.



THE LATE HOMECOMER

Following the second School Performance, *The Late Homecomer* featured an opportunity for talk-back with 90 students. Moreover, the Ordway partnered with the Dakota County Library to offer this presentation at their South Saint Paul location. Over 100 community members attended the free performance.

SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL INAUGURATION

850 people attended the historic event on January 9, 2024.

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONORS CONCERT

This annual event on April 2, 2024, featured 628 student participants (453 student musicians + 175 visual artists).

GOVERNOR'S MLK DAY

On January 15, 2024, the Ordway hosted the Governor’s 38th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, with 950 attendees.





Photo: Dan Norman

ACCESS TICKETS

**Broadway @ the Ordway | Ordway Presents |
Flint Hills Family Festival | Arts Partnership Concerts |
Ordway Inside Out**

**Our goal is to provide
Ordway experiences to
groups who do not have
the means to purchase
tickets at full price.**

Access tickets are planned distribution of Ordway tickets that are subsidized, sold at highly discounted rates, or provided as complimentary tickets.

All school performance shows are subsidized for access, priced at \$4 or special, highly discounted \$0.25 tickets. In addition, Dynamic Pricing plays a role in the ticket revenue stream — price adjustments offer allocations for access ticket pricing for Broadway and some Ordway Presents performances.

Our goal is to provide Ordway experiences to groups who do not have the means to purchase tickets at full price. This is accomplished by providing complimentary tickets through key partnerships. The Education team has several established relationships (Tickets for Kids and Project Success); Marketing works with Boys and Girls Club and VetTix plus several other groups. These relationships allow us to offer complimentary tickets directly to young people, vets, and their families who have greatest need.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers generously work across the organization and enhance our capacity, welcome our audiences, support our staff, increase the Ordway’s visibility and serve as ambassadors.

During the 2023-2024 season, 537 individuals provided 3,911 hours of service to our guests and community—serving as ushers, greeting school buses during the Flint Hills Family Festival, joining our Marketing team at outreach events and much more.

Thank you volunteers for your commitment!



Jean Holewa - Volunteering since 2019

“As a child growing up in St. Paul in the 1960’s, I treasured the school field trips that brought me downtown for dress rehearsals of different Broadway shows that came to town. I was instantly enthralled with the performing arts.

Now I like to volunteer, in particular, for the Ordway school performances as a way to welcome school children who may be coming to a theater or concert for the very first time. I know many of them will develop the same love for the arts that I have.

Conclusion: Being a volunteer at The Ordway brings me joy.”

Special Thanks to the following
VOLUNTEER LEADERS

From July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

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2023-2024 CONTRIBUTORS

The Ordway is grateful for each and every person listed on the following pages. Through their investments, you are able to enjoy a season filled with exciting, uplifting, and entertaining live performance. The individuals listed here made contributions between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Leadership Circle

The Ordway is deeply grateful to the following individuals for their generous annual contributions of \$1,500 or more in support of artistic programming, arts education, and community engagement, as well as maintenance of the Ordway venue itself.

\$50,000+

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Special thanks to the following individuals who, through donations of \$60 to \$1,499, support the Ordway's work of connecting people to the arts. Ordway Friends make it possible to present a season filled with musical theater, dance, concerts, comedy, and educational programs.

\$500-\$1,499

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Sue and Dave Cullinan
Terry and Kathy Cummings
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Dr. Heather Decker
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Brandon Dols
Anonymous
Bruce Dumke
Brandy Duncan
Asteway Elala
Steven Engelson
Laura and Brian Feintech
Anonymous
Patience Ferguson
Polly and Steve Filing
Elizabeth French
Deborah Fristad
Angela Gallwas

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Brian Hauger
Lisa Higgs and Toby Kohler
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Hayden Howland
Marcus Hulmer
Marilyn Hurler
Kevin and Linda Janni
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Wesley Johnson
Cynthia Jorstad
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Holly Kellar
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Harold A. Koppy
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Marcia Leatham M.D.
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Megan Ludwig
Virginia Magnuson
Pat Mahre
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Christopher McHugh and
Cheryl Smetana McHugh
Dana McKenzie
Carl Meier
John and Mary Meier
Paula Millar
Corinne Grubar Miller
Jean Montgomery
Diane Morehouse
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Michele Thompson
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2023-2024

Rev. Kathryn Tulman and Jon Tulman
Bryan and Christopher
Dena Wainwright
Mary Ann Wark
Sara Wintheiser

\$120 - \$249

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Nancy Aiken
Margaret J. Albrecht
Eileen Allen
Shreyasee Amin
Elizabeth Anderson
Elwood Anderson
Susan Anderson
Jolene Bailey
The Baker Family
Roger E. Battreall and Jayne L. Funk
Larry and Mary Bergin
Leon and Judy Bloomfield
The Boelter Family
Heather Bopp
Thomas and Joanne Boyer
Thomas Bruckner
Celeste Carty
Carole Casey
Anne Casey-Letourneau
Ms. Nealie Christopher
George Clabon
Carole Clymer
Patricia Croyley
Dawn Dacut
Jon and Julie Danskin
Gretchen Dempewolf
John and Linda Dinan
Joel and Chris Dittberner
Jennifer Dreher
Nancy Edwards and Rob Baas
Dean and Sandra Eldred
Wayne Ellefson
Bruce and Norma Evans
Sarah and Jason Feipel
Nile Fellows
Kellie Fitzgerald
Mr. Michael Forseth
Jennifer Fortner
Solveig Fredrickson
Ann Fritz
Norman M Gabrick
Leland and Beverly Gehrke
Tanya Gertz
Michelle and Judd Gilats
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Andrew and Tina Grzeskowiak
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Payton and Judith Hage
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Margot Leiner
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JoAnn Meyer
Milne Family
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Josh Peterson
Greta Petrich and Michael Petrich
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Luminaria Society

The Luminaria Society is a distinguished group of individuals who have included the Ordway in their estate plans. Through their generosity, they ensure that future generations will experience the joy of the performing arts.

Anonymous (3)
Jeff and Betty Ansel
Bruce Beutel †
Bill Bluhm and Christine Sand
Penny Bond and Chuck Grimsrud
Brian T. Brakke
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Dan and Jane Fesler
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Dale Schulz and Amanda Sill
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Kathy Welander
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† In remembrance

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The Ordway salutes the following organizations for their cumulative contributions and generous commitment over the past year to our artistic programming and community engagement activities.

\$250,000+



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\$50,000-\$99,999



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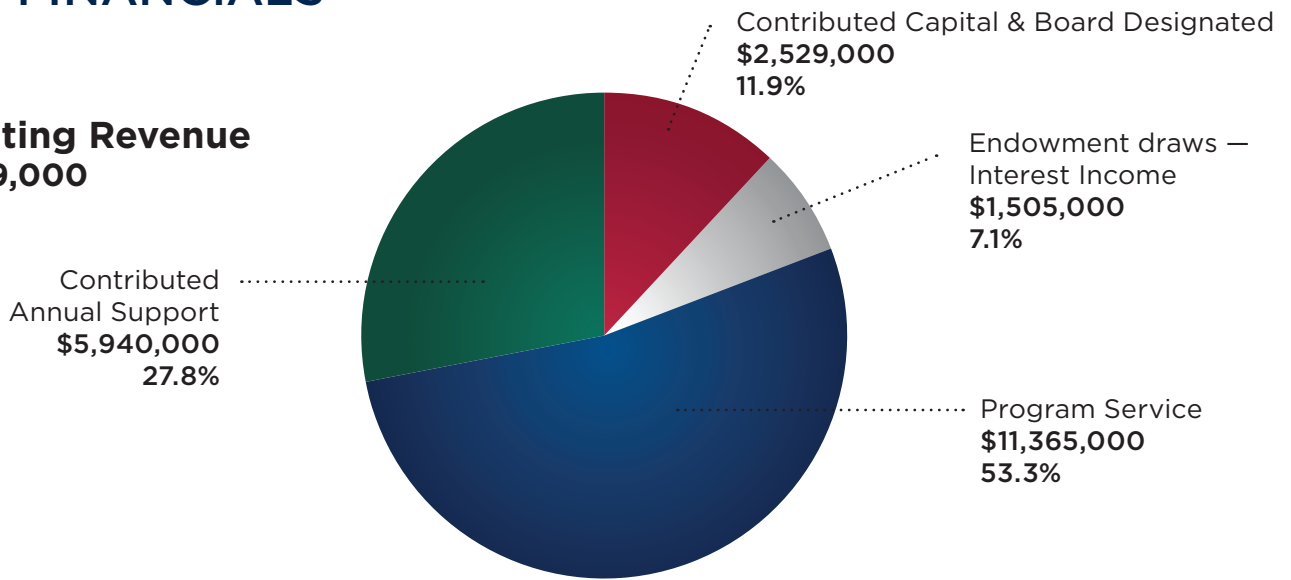
Loffler

\$1,000-\$4,999

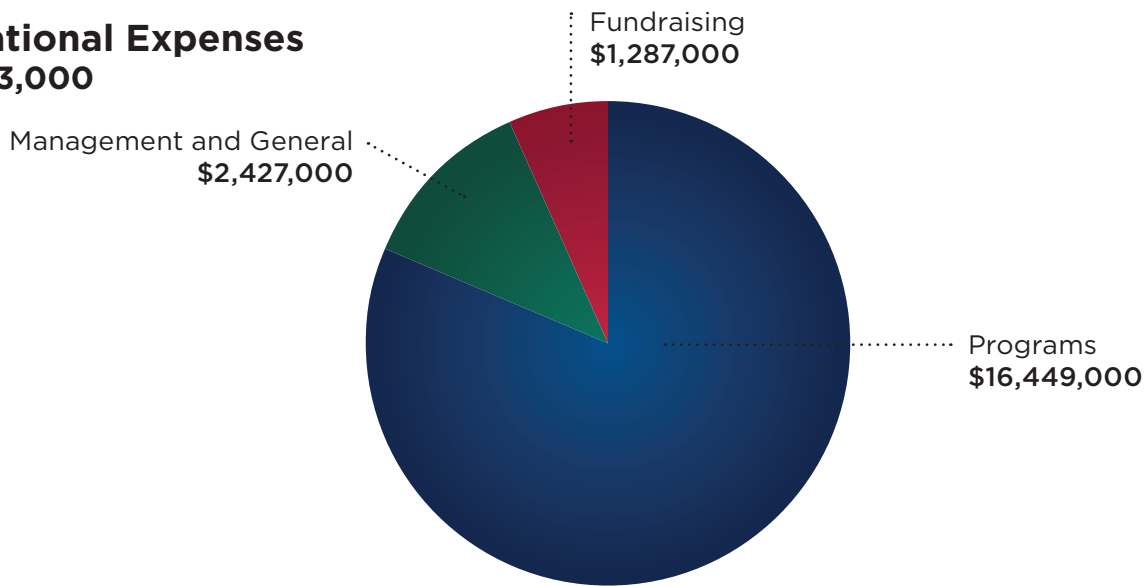
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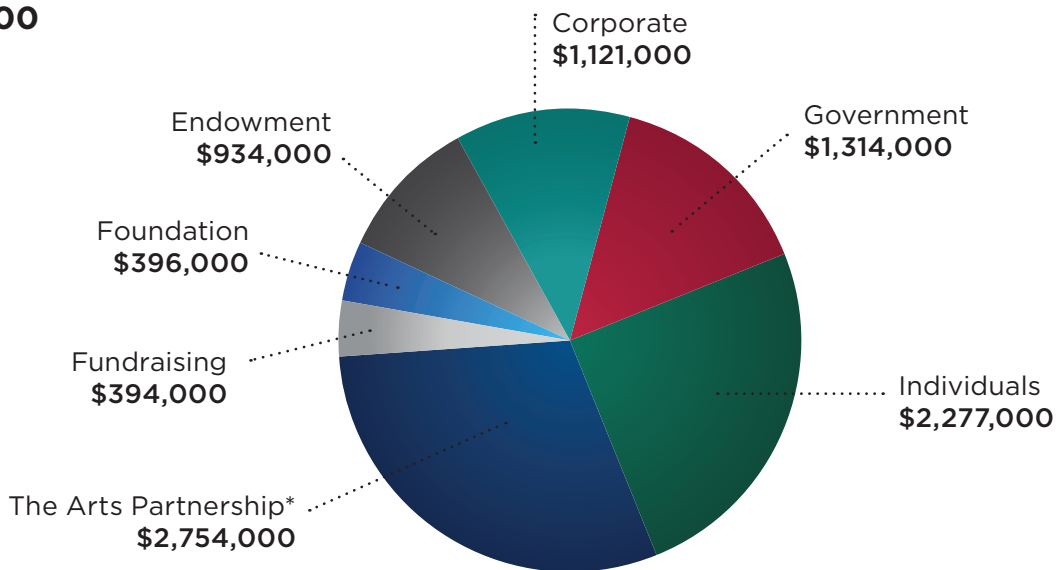
Operating Revenue \$21,339,000



Operational Expenses \$20,163,000



Contributions \$9,190,000



*includes capital grants for building improvements



ORDWAY

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