



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

June 6, 2024

SUMMARY

It was a year of learning, to be sure. Due to the building improvements mandated by the Fire Department, our performance space was closed in August of 2023. We were able to offer a limited number of events in the alternative locations, including the Elks Lodge, the Franklin Public Library, the Franklin Middle School, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Despite the obstacles, the year was successful in several ways. We maintained a consistent presence in the community, providing a variety of entertainment opportunities. We continued our collaborative efforts with Franklin Footlight Theatre, FHS Players, and Franklin Middle School drama students. Franklin Area Children's Theatre provided opportunities for 19 teen interns and over 30 participants ages 5-14. Sponsorship, business advertising, and membership have all maintained their levels of support, with some modest increases in membership. Grant funding has been obtained for some technical improvements.

As for challenges, they are not fewer in number! Following its closure to the public, the Opera House has continued to deteriorate; indeed, the deterioration may be accelerating due to lack of occupancy. We continue to work on planning for proposed renovations, though it often seems like we need to exert some effort to be able to offer input.

Prepared by **Dan Darling, Executive Director**

PROGRAMMING

For season / fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024

Opera House Productions	# of Performances	Tickets Sold
Finding Nemo Jr. (FACT)	2	279
Dueling Pianos	1	85
Polter-Heist – murder mystery dessert theatre	2	234
Randy Armstrong	1	56
Liz & Dan Faiella	1	80
Yankee Humor w/ Fred Marple & Rebecca Rule	1	98
Scott Spradling Band	1	88
Music in the Park	9	NA

FFT, FHS, and FMS Productions	# of Performances	Tickets Sold
Beauty and the Beast (last show in Opera House)	6	978
The Addams Family	4	435
Willy Wonka Jr.	4	603
Nunsense	4	397
Mean Girls	4	346

COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS SEASON, PRIOR TO CLOSURE OF FACILITY

	Current Year	Previous Year
Gross Ticket Sales	\$55,849.75	99334.28
Ticket Sales for Opera House events	17418	43486
Ticket Sales for Franklin Footlight Theater	27783*	28411*
Ticket Sales for FHS and FMS productions	10204	22645
Total Tickets Sold	3677	6497

INCOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR

Donations	\$ 704	Fundraising	\$17,930
Grants	\$36,500	FOH Ticket Sales	\$13,996*
Sponsors	\$ 7,600	*does not include FFT or SAU shows	
Memberships	\$ 5,147	FACT Tuition	\$ 2,740
Advertisers	\$ 2,025	Concessions	\$ 3,051
		Rentals	\$ 1,300

KEY EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR

Payroll	\$40,307	Contracted Services Fees	\$ 1,879
Talent	\$ 7,365	Supplies	\$ 490
Advertising / Website	\$ 3,356	Phone and Utilities	\$ 1,564
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 6,900	Printing	\$ 1,961

CURRENT ASSETS (AS OF 5/28/2024)

FSB Checking Account	\$ 45,365
FSB Certificate of Deposit	\$ 37,488
IFA/Fidelity Money Market	\$ 89,402
IFA/Fidelity CDs	\$ 49,985

BUILDING CONDITIONS

We are currently waiting for the City Council to decide on a course of action to renovate Soldiers Memorial Hall. We anticipate restarting performances in the Opera House in the Fall of 2026.

OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

The coming year will be structured much the same as the year just completed, with a small number of events in alternative venues. We are planning to use the Celebrity Waiter Dinner and Auction as a major fundraising event. But our major challenge will be to prepare for our first-ever Capital Campaign, which will be a learning experience for everyone, Board and staff alike.

BOARD AND STAFF

MEMBERS OF THE OPERA HOUSE BOARD*

2021-2024	Jule Finley	FACT director
2021-2024	Chris Seufert	Vice President
2021-2024	Christine Dzujna	
2021-2024	Alicia Humphrey	
2022-2025	Jeff Perkins	President
2022-2025	Judith Ackerson	Treasurer
2022-2025	Sue Bitetto	Footlight Liaison
2022-2025	Ernie Smith	
2022-2025	Chip Ach	
2022-2025	Maureen Aube	Volunteer Coord
2023-2026	Carol Hodgdon	
2023-2026	Peter Heath	
2023-2026	Alison Cross	Bookkeeper
2023-2026	Valerie Perkins	
2023-2026	Denise Steadman	

STAFF

Executive Director: Dan Darling

Administrative Assistant: Lilly Machos