

23

24

IMPACT REPORT



SEASON 2023 - 2024 SOMETIMES I DREAM...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- P 1 A LETTER FROM MATHEW WRIGHT,
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
- P 2 ARTSWEST'S MISSION
- P 2 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- P 3 PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT
- P 4 WHY ARTSWEST?
- P 5- 6 ARTSWEST'S IMPACT
ACROSS COMMUNITIES
- P 7-8 HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR
2023-2024 SEASON
- P 9 THE ARTSWEST GALLERY
- P 10-11 EXPANDING COMMUNITY
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS &
ENGAGEMENT
- P 12 THEATER IS FOR EVERYONE
- P 12 THANK YOU TO OUR
GENEROUS SUPPORTERS
- P 13 FINANCIALS
- P 14 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS,
SPONSORS, AND GRANTORS
- P 14 CURRENT BOARD & STAFF



Dear Friends,

In the fall of 2022, the staff and I began planning a season that would come to be titled *Sometimes I Dream*. We had found a collection of plays about people in pursuit of their dreams – messy, fumbling, grasping, getting in each other’s way, and realizing in the end that actualizing dreams never happens in a vacuum. In Lynn Nottage’s *Clyde’s*, the culminating show of the season, we saw how accelerated the pursuit of dreams becomes when a community forms, giving rise to a renewed ability to power through obstacles.



When we planned a season about the role of connection and community in the pursuit of dreams, we could never have imagined how much art would wind up imitating life. The COVID-19 pandemic had struck a major blow to the business of live theater and other artforms predicated on gathering. When the industry returned to producing in 2021, we knew recovery would be a long, slow process - but through it all, those of us who have loved theater for a lifetime retained faith that an artform that has existed for over 2,500 years could never be fully extinguished.

Lucky for us, this past year has made it clear that our you, our beloved community, have retained that faith with us. Together, we’ve begun to rebuild and recover in ways that are bringing record numbers of first-time patrons into our building to share in the kind of storytelling that I know you believe has the power to enrich and change lives.

We hope this Impact Report, our first since 2015, will make you proud of the work we’ve done together this past year. I think it tells a story about how a community that celebrates the beautiful specificity of individuals can create a theater that will not only withstand adversity, but continuously move, adapt, and grow forever in step with its times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathew Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Mathew Wright
Producing Artistic Director



ARTSWEST MISSION

ArtsWest produces artistic events that provoke conversation, incite the imagination and use live theater as a powerful agent of change.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ArtsWest acknowledges that we are on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people. With gratitude, we honor their stewardship of this land past and present. As an organization, we continue to learn about the Duwamish Tribe and support their call for federal recognition. This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with indigenous communities and serves just a first step in honoring the people and the land that we are on.



PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT

is an invitation to our audiences to be active participants in the art we create at ArtsWest.

You are about to experience a live performance. Take a deep breath, look around, and remember: This performance. This unique gathering. The energy created in this room will only happen once. Ever.

We invite you, your full authentic self, to share space with us.

Your identity contains multitudes and is fluid, intersectional, and of vital importance. Thank you for being here.

Reacting and responding is a welcome collaboration with the performance.

It is only natural to react and respond; to share a laugh, a cheer, a 'mhm', a sigh as long as it is not distracting or thwarting the action on stage. You, the audience, are a crucial component of what is happening tonight.

By joining us, you are automatically a member of our community.

The event is not just what is happening on stage; it is a collective experience. Welcome those around you. Share, respect, assist, greet, protect, give space to and engage with those around you.

If you've found yourself here, now you're one of us. Welcome.

Inspired by Dominique Morriseau's Rules of Engagement.

WHY ARTSWEST?

At ArtsWest, we pride ourselves on producing hard-hitting narratives that illuminate the complexities of the human experience.

In our 2023-2024 we rediscovered the use of humor and joy to engage audiences in difficult topics. While remaining mission-driven we seek to provide escape and entertainment that delivers a message.



85% of attendees to arts and culture events would “would feel a great sense of loss if this activity or venue were no longer available.”



89% of arts attendees say that “the event they are attending inspires a sense of pride in the neighborhood community.”



73% of Americans agree that the arts “helps me understand other cultures better” - a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.

Data from Americans for the Arts - Arts and Economic Prosperity 6

ARTSWEST'S IMPACT ACROSS COMMUNITIES

As the only professional theater between Seattle and Federal Way, our diverse programming attracts audiences from across the Greater Seattle Area to experience art and engage in conversation about what is happening in the world around us.



Barry and Amy Stoddard
ARTSWEST SUPPORTERS

"Art in all forms adds so much to our existence, and the power of theatre provides an opportunity for understanding, healing, and challenge to our thinking which in turn helps us to be better people in our communities. **There are so many things we love about ArtsWest:** the passion and commitment of the staff, the theater's selection and presentation of shows that challenge and inspire their audience, and the community of artists and patrons who view the performing arts as an essential part of our lives."



Constance Swank
ARTSWEST SUPPORTER

"ArtsWest is a special theatre among stellar counterparts in our region. Season after season, it brings diverse and challenging stories to life on stage and populates them with gifted directors, actors, set designers, sound engineers, and more. In so doing, ArtsWest broadens and deepens the sensibilities of its audiences in thoughtful and meaningful ways. I always leave richer for the experience.

My calendar is happily, perhaps insanely, filled with theatre dates across the South Sound. I see wonderful productions every year by companies large and small and in venues as diverse as those companies and their seasons. We who live here are blessed beyond measure by the actors, directors, technical personnel, and everyone else associated with the theatres around us.

That so many in this deep talent pool are drawn to ArtsWest productions is not surprising. My guess is they are drawn for the same reasons audiences are—a wonderful, intimate space to illuminate and share terrific stories that remind us of our common humanity. "

AUDIENCE BY LOCATION

38% - West Seattle

33% - Magnolia/Westlake, the Central District, North Seattle, and the Eastside

24% - Visitors to King County

5% - Cities south of Seattle including Auburn, Tukwila, Des Moines, Kent, and Burien/White Center

ARTSWEST'S IMPACT ACROSS COMMUNITIES



Aaron Norman

ARTIST

"ArtsWest has been one of my artistic homes since I was in their production of **Jane Eyre**. I've been fortunate to have worked at a number of theatres in the greater Seattle area including the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle Rep, and Village Theatre among others, and ArtsWest continues to be one of my favorite theatres to work at and see shows at. Their season selection is always interesting and thought provoking. The way in which they put a show together is often very organic and in the moment and really allows for the artistic juices to flow. As an educator, I'm always telling my students to make sure they get a spot to audition at ArtsWest. As an actor, I felt seen and heard. As a music director, I felt challenged, fulfilled, and proud. As an artist, I feel home."

MONROE

MAGNOLIA



Athena Duran

STAFF

"ArtsWest is a place where I feel free to dream, to try, to reach and to imagine infinite possibilities. The organization centers itself on being a home for artists. I have found this to be true. **As an early career arts administrator, working in a place that acts on its mission has made all the difference.**"

WEST SEATTLE



Arline Borella

ARTSWEST SUPPORTER

"When I retired and moved to West Seattle 17 years ago, I knew no one except for my four adult children. I met a couple of staunch ArtsWest supporters who invited me to a volunteer meeting. The volunteers were so proud and supportive of the theater that I was inspired to become a volunteer less than a week later. I immediately felt like I found my community and from that day forward I have volunteered wherever I could. **Each volunteer experience at ArtsWest has connected me with old friends and introduced me to new ones. What more could you ask for?** Even with old age creeping up, I still assist in the box office greeting patrons and answering questions for Sunday matinees."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2023-2024 SEASON

This season was one of our boldest yet. Each production asked audiences to consider "What would it take to create a world in which everyone is free to pursue a dream?"

WE SAW A
43%
AUDIENCE
INCREASE

WE WELCOMED
2,000
NEW
AUDIENCE
MEMBERS

120
VOLUNTEERS
PROVIDED
579
HOURS
OF SERVICE

WE
CELEBRATED
33 **SOLD OUT**
PERFORMANCES

WE PROVIDED
910
DISCOUNTED
TICKETS

WE EMPLOYED
75 ARTISTS

10,576
PATRONS
CAME THROUGH
OUR DOORS

WE SOLD
599 SIGNATURE
COCKTAILS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2023-2024 SEASON



MATT & BEN | September 7 – October 1

59 DIFFERENT PROPS FEATURED THROUGHOUT THE SHOW

"We saw Matt & Ben and the performance was stellar! In this 2 actor show, they had such a great rapport with each other, it was obvious they were enjoying themselves. I was talking and telling others about the show for days. The set was fun and it felt like the perfect size venue for this show." - Sarah G.

SNOWED IN | November 30 - December 23

1 ORIGINAL HOLIDAY MUSICAL WRITTEN BY ARTSWEST STAFF

"When you can keep four pre-teens, two parents in their 50s, and an 86-year-old grandma glued to their seats, you are obviously doing things right." - Arline B.



BORN WITH TEETH | February 1 – February 25

13 OF APPLES THROWN OFF STAGE

"I was riveted by Born With Teeth and I am scheduled to see it again. The two actors maintained an intense rapport and delivered an unforgettable performance! Now I'm anxious to learn more about the men and the times to better understand this work. Thank you for a stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable experience!" - Marcia A.

ENGLISH | April 4 – April 28

43 CHAIRS STACKED AND HUNG ON STAGE CREATE THE SET

"English really transported me and made me see things from various viewpoints outside my own experience." - Sephy T.



CLYDE'S | June 6 – June 30

17 SANDWICHES IMAGINED BY THE KITCHEN CREW

"Valerie Curtis-Newton directs a wonderful cast... in a production... that makes us all think about our judgements of others and their pasts, and our acceptance of those that have paid a price for their mistakes." - Greg Heilman, The Sound on Stage

THE ARTSWEST GALLERY

We proudly support and celebrate Pacific Northwest visual artists by exhibiting their work and creating a space where stimulating, engaging, and thought-provoking work is made accessible to our community. Each production features a visual art exhibit whose themes and identities mirror what we are exploring on stage. Our Call for Art has no entry fee and the local visual artists can sell their work with no fees taken by ArtsWest.



Kalina Winska
carbon magic.
August 16 to
October 23, 2023



Thoa Nguyen
Common Thread
November 7, 2023 to
January 8, 2024



Scott Coffey
Friend of Achilles
February 1 to
March 17, 2024



Audineh Asaf
Paisley
April 1 to
May 13, 2024



kwonny
Modern Day Saints
May 13 to
August 20, 2024

**THREE
OF THE
ARTISTS
SOLD
WORK
DURING
THEIR
GALLERY
SHOW!**

EXPANDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT

We are proud to be in relationship with other arts and nonprofit organizations to expand audiences, share resources, and build relationships. Our partnerships allow us to produce authentically and to invite the communities represented on stage to share in ArtsWest storytelling.

PARTNERSHIPS



JET CITY IMPROV

ArtsWest is honored to be Jet City Improv's West Seattle home. We emphatically support their mission to uplift the community by promoting powerful communication skills, heartfelt storytelling, and boosting individual and group morale.

- 6 performances
- 518 patrons

'Partnerships like those between Jet City Improv and ArtsWest represent the present and the future of building a strong, stable, and growing creative economy in our region. By sharing resources, aligning our artistic values, and lifting each other up, we move away from the "survival of the fittest" mentality. Instead, we embrace the belief that when I win, you win.

...
Jet City Improv was born in Seattle's U-District, but this partnership has given us a fresh start and a renewed sense of belonging. It's helped us extend our reach and remind people of the power of comedy and connection, even in the hardest of times.'

- Mario Orallo, *Artistic Director Emeritus of Jet City*



EXPANDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUED

SEDA IRANIAN THEATRE ENSEMBLE

ArtsWest and Seda co-produced *English* in the Spring of 2024. Seda was founded in 2019 as the first Iranian theatre company in Seattle, WA. Their mission is to amplify and give voice to the issues and stories of immigrants by creating work on stage and through imagination and art.

- Seda helped ArtsWest partner with the local Iranian community.
- We provided Seda with a special discount code to engage in outreach to their community.
- This production was at 97% capacity.

An Excerpt from Naghmeh’s Director’s Note:

‘Theater is our temple,’ I said to this cast and crew at a recent rehearsal, and the sparkle in their eyes told me they agree with me. This time, we have come together in the temple of theatre from different experiences, ethnicities, and nationalities to speak of language, identity, and the experience of immigration. When I immigrated to Seattle from Iran roughly four years ago, I never imagined I would have such a special opportunity to work together with a creative and professional group on a play that’s connected to my personal immigration experience.

...

Here in this temple of theatre, we have joined our languages and cultures to speak with the language of performances and fantasy; a language that does not separate, but connects us.

Welcome to our small imaginative temple.’



THE HANSBERRY PROJECT

Established in 2006, The Hansberry Project’s mission is, “to celebrate, support and present the work of black theatre artists.”

- Partnered to present *Clyde’s*
- The closing performance of *Clyde’s* was a fundraiser for The Hansberry Project. The goal was to use the performance to raise money and awareness for their organization. A portion of the ticket sales from the performance were split between the two organizations.

An Excerpt from Val’s Director’s Note:

‘Lynn Nottage is a writer working to change the world. She writes of what exists and asks us to examine what we are doing to and for each other.

This play is about redemption and forgiveness. It is an important story – especially in the Black community where the Justice system has been used as a weapon against us. The formerly incarcerated are forced into lived sentences that often stretch well after the prison terms have been served.

...

The Diner is a real place at the edge of the world. The space between Heaven and Hell. One foot in each place. We are lifted out of Hell by our dreams. Through them, it is possible to be redeemed. People are not defined by their worst moment.’



EXPANDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

SEASON FIRST LOOK

Season First Look is a preview of the upcoming season and is free and open to the public. This engagement event is part TED Talk / part live podcast. Each year Mathew Wright hosts this special evening featuring staged readings, musical moments, and conversations with creatives.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS & TALK BACKS

BORN WITH TEETH | “Who Was Kit Marlowe” - February 11 and February 22

During our run of *Born with Teeth*, Gary Jones, a Marlowe expert and friend of ArtsWest, led two engagement events consisting of discussion and conversation about Christopher “Kit” Marlowe, one of the two characters in the production.

ENGLISH | Persian Community Day – April 21st and Talk-Back for ESL Teachers - April 26th

Seda Iranian Theatre Ensemble helped ArtsWest partner with local Iranian artists, community leaders, and businesses to host a Persian Community Day and special talk-back for ESL teachers.

CLYDE’S | Panel Discussion on the Prison System – June 23rd

Mathew Wright moderated a free panel discussion Valerie Curtis-Newton, *Clyde’s* Director and The Hansberry Project co-founder, and representatives from The IF Project and Fresh Start Professional Services. Discussion centered around the prison system and re-integration of formerly incarcerated individuals.



ARTIST RECEPTIONS

We host an Artist Reception with each visual artist during West Seattle Art Walk on the second Thursday of each month from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Artists have the chance to speak formally about their exhibit and meet approximately 150 community members at each reception.

THEATER IS FOR EVERYONE



ArtsWest is dedicated to dismantling barriers that hinder access to the performing arts. We provide ticket discounts for seniors, military, and a \$15 inclusion rate. Our inclusion rate is available to everyone, no questions asked. We partner with Teen Tix, arts organizations, and non-profits to offer our community free or discounted tickets.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



We would be unable to do our work without the incredible and generous support of our donors. In our 2023-2024 season, **965 supporters** contributed to the impact of our productions and **for 590 of you, it was your first time donating** to ArtsWest! We are deeply grateful for your belief in our work.

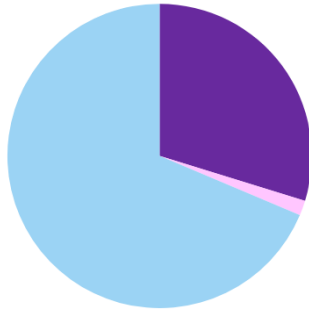
We've been asking you what inspires you to make a gift to ArtsWest and the answers have been beautiful and wide-ranging. Some of you shared with us that you love the arts, great theater, and that you appreciate the creativity and hard work you see on our stage.

Others have shared with us stories like ArtsWest where you met your husband of 24 years, or that while you are not in a season of your life where you can make it out to the theater you are grateful for a robust arts organization in West Seattle.

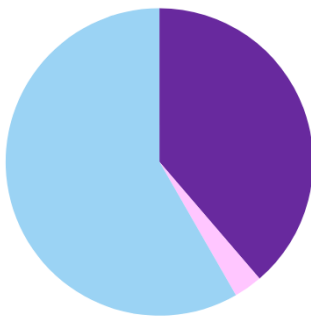
Your support is seen, felt, and heard when audiences experience stories that foster belonging, when laughter builds community, and when post-show dialogue is sparked. Thank you for being a part of the fabric that weaves audiences and artists together in storytelling that lets us all live better together.




FINANCIALS

FY23 Income

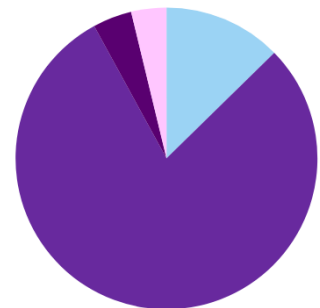


FY24 Income

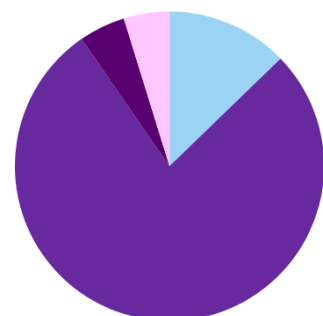






	FY23	FY24
 Contributed Income	\$594,855	\$692,473
 Program Income	\$257,860	\$459,095
 Other Income	\$13,855	\$35,958
Total Income	\$866,570	\$1,187,526

FY23 Expenses



FY24 Expenses



	FY23	FY24
 Admin Expenses Payroll, occupancy expenses, admin, and box office	\$922,900	\$1,057,920*
 Production Expenses	\$147,113	\$173,833
 Fundraising Expenses	\$43,855	\$65,137
 Marketing Expenses	\$48,584	\$66,167
Total Expenses	\$1,162,452	\$1,363,057

*FY24 had an \$83,000 increase in admin expenses due to damages and repairs from our basement flooding

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS, AND GRANTORS

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Ariel Fund
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DML Insurance
John Brooks William Estate and John H. Bauer
Endowment for Theatre
Microsoft
MVP Photobooth

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Nucor Steel Seattle
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Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
The Boeing Company
Washington State Arts Commission
West Seattle Garden Tour
Zeeks Pizza White Center

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