

EnsembleArts Philly

IMPACT REPORT 2025



It takes an
ensemble.



Dear Friends,

It is the honor of my lifetime to serve as president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts, and a great privilege to share my gratitude for your generous support.

At Ensemble Arts, we believe that the arts are for everyone. As Philadelphia's biggest presenter of the performing arts—and the largest presenter of Broadway outside of New York City—we proudly stand at the heart of our city's cultural life. We are committed to programming that speaks to the many interests of Philadelphia's communities, and each performance in our venues contributes to the universe of world-class art forms, genres, and ideas that bring our mission to life.

Through our role as a civic leader in arts and culture, our impact extends far beyond the stage. My vision as CEO is to ensure that every Philadelphia student—kindergarten through 12th grade—walks through our doors and experiences the transformative power of live performance at least three times. This bold goal is only possible because of your generosity and passion for the arts. With your support, we already serve nearly 40,000 students each year through free and deeply subsidized performances and arts instruction, making us the city's largest provider of supplemental arts education. Your partnership fuels the imagination of future artists, audiences, and arts advocates, and helps make the arts accessible to all.

But before we look ahead to the 2025-26 season, let us reflect on the incredible impact your generosity made in the last year. I hope you will enjoy the following report as a window into the change our donors have created through the gift of philanthropy.

Thank you for your belief in our mission. Your commitment strengthens Philadelphia's cultural heartbeat and ensures that our city and organization continue to shine as a beacon for the arts for generations to come. As we look toward the future, I feel pride and excitement for all we will achieve together.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Fleur". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ryan Fleur
President & CEO



Sharing the Power of the Arts



Michael Harmon from *MJ the Musical* teaches choreography at the Philadelphia Fall Arts Fest.

Philadelphia Fall Arts Festival

Last September, Ensemble Arts Philly welcomed 3,400 guests to our annual Philadelphia Fall Arts Festival for a free celebration marking the new season and the vibrancy of our local arts scene. Described by one attendee as a “kaleidoscope of cultural expression,” the event showcased 56 arts organizations and 21 live performances featuring stars from *The Wiz*, *MJ The Musical*, Opera Philadelphia, PHILADANCO!, BalletX, the musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra, and more.

The Kimmel Center buzzed with energy as families, neighbors, and visitors experienced Philadelphia’s diverse arts community. With interactive activities and over 3,000 discounted tickets distributed for upcoming performances, the festival underscored our commitment to creating opportunities for Philadelphians to engage with the arts and set the stage for a dynamic season ahead.

Philly Loves Broadway

The 2024-25 Broadway lineup included a wide variety of powerful performances. From the iconic blockbusters *Les Misérables* and *Hamilton* to poignant stories like *Come From Away*, the season showcased the importance of inclusive storytelling and the transformative power of the performing arts.

This year was also the inaugural season of Broadway Bridges Philly, a program that seeks to enrich students’ arts education, promote cultural equity and access, and cultivate a diverse future audience for live theater. In partnership with The Broadway League, local high school students receive \$10 tickets to Broadway shows. This year, 80 students from two public Philadelphia high schools joined us in early April for a performance of *& Juliet*.



Local students attend *& Juliet* through the Broadway Bridges program.



& Juliet

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Artists

Jazz For Freedom

Jazz For Freedom made a powerful impact this year, reaching more than 3,200 students from 65 schools. Through 139 classroom workshops led by 15 dedicated teaching artists, students explored the rich history and cultural significance of jazz and its connection to social justice. The experience culminated in a dynamic live experience, with 112 school buses transporting students to the Kimmel Center to witness music come to life.

“Bringing the students to a part of town they don’t usually go was a highlight. Exposing them to a performance like this is an amazing opportunity.”

—Jazz For Freedom Teacher Attendee

Set the Stage

Set the Stage welcomed over 3,000 students in grades 4 through 6 for this unique program designed to expand their knowledge and interest in what goes into a stage production, from on stage to behind the scenes. In partnership with 34 schools—nearly 90% of them Philadelphia School District schools—we also facilitated over 100 pre-show classroom visits, deepening students’ engagement with and understanding of the program material. Building these meaningful connections to live performance enables Set the Stage to broaden arts access and spark imagination across our city.



Jazz for Freedom



Students arriving to the Kimmel Center for an arts education program.



Above: 2024–25 All City Fellows.

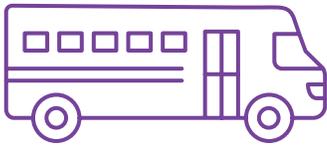
Inaugural All City Jazz Fellowship Program

The All City Jazz Fellowship is a partnership between Ensemble Arts Philly and The School District of Philadelphia. The year-long program selects talented young jazz musicians from throughout the city through a rigorous audition and interview process. As part of this tuition-free experience, our All City Jazz Fellows receive performance opportunities, mentorship and lessons from professional musicians, and a stipend.

This spring, the All City Jazz Fellows participated in a residency at SkyHigh at the Four Seasons Hotel and performed in the Kimmel Center’s Commonwealth Plaza in advance of Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra’s Concert. Over the year, the Fellows gained invaluable real-life performance experiences in front of some of Philadelphia’s most appreciative audiences. Please join us in congratulating these talented young musicians!



Watch a video about our education programs!



Education Impact by the Numbers

17,000+
students traveled to
the Kimmel Center on
449 school buses



249
In-school
visits



67
Teaching
Artists

Investing Tax Dollars into the Future of the Arts

Donors who support our Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program are integral in shaping artistic experiences like Lanai’s! With a two-year commitment of \$5,000 or more per year, they also earn 90% back as credit on their state taxes. Supporting Ensemble Arts through EITC provides meaningful access to the arts for local youth and is a powerful way to use your tax dollars for lasting impact.

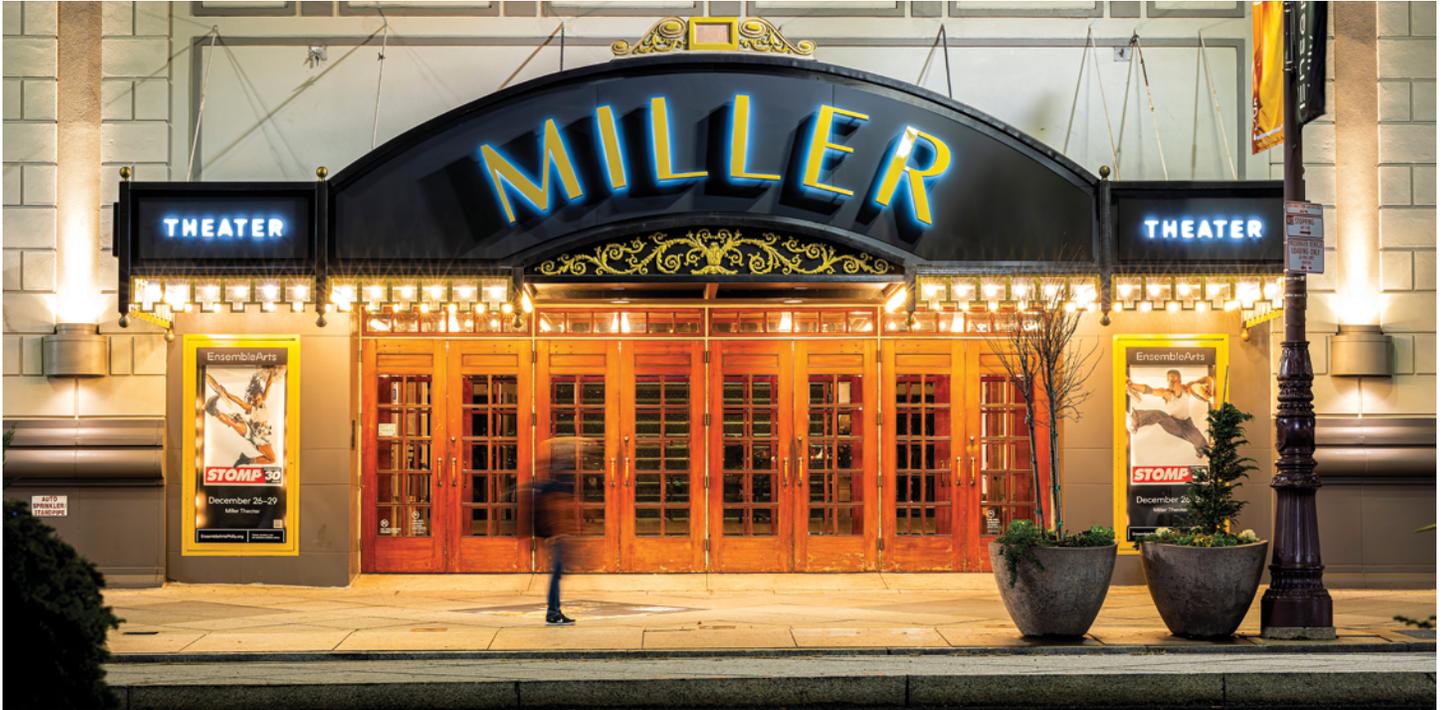
If you are interested in learning more about EITC giving, please contact us at agewirtz@ensembleartsphilly.org.



“It was magnificent. It was beautiful... it was so calming. I learned a lot like, ‘I should be [myself]!’”

—Lanai (Grade 5), Jazz For Freedom Attendee

Building Space for Community and Access



Revitalizing the Miller Theater

Thanks to the generous support of Alan Miller and the Miller Family, the century-old Miller Theater (built in 1918) is undergoing an inspiring transformation. This year, key restoration and enhancement efforts included the revitalization of the historic façade, upgraded concessions areas in the lobby, and the installation of a striking new marquee on Broad Street. As the home for jazz, comedy, family programming, and more through Ensemble Arts Presents, the Miller Theater is being reimagined as a vibrant, welcoming hub for artists and audiences alike.



Deepening Our Commitment to Accessibility

Ensemble Arts Philly is committed to making our spaces welcoming and inclusive for all. Across our venues, we offer a range of resources and accommodations designed to support guests of all ages and abilities. This year we initiated a partnership with KultureCity, a national leader in sensory accessibility, to provide specialized training and equip our venues to offer new sensory tools and designated quiet areas to better serve neurodiverse guests. We also continued our decade-long partnership with Hands UP Productions to offer ASL interpreting services at select performances, upholding our dedication to creating barrier-free arts experiences for everyone in our community.



Top: The new Miller Theater marquee and updated entrance.
Middle: A Q&A session in ASL with actors from *Hamilton*.
Bottom: Usher John M. shows sensory tools available in kits.

Backstage Pass

From Broad Street to Broadway, we spent the year offering unique backstage experiences to our donors. In February, we hosted our first “Load-In and Lunch” as the touring production team from *Come From Away* began loading-in the show at the Academy of Music. Fran Egler, our Vice President of Theatrical Programming and Presentations, facilitated an engaging conversation with members of the production about what it takes to bring a Broadway musical on the road.

We also welcomed a group of donors to the inaugural Patron Day Trip to New York City to experience six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald in the revival of *Gypsy*. Coupled with a private tour of the historic Majestic Theatre and a post-show greeting with *Gypsy* musical director and conductor Andy Einhorn, the trip was a delightful way for donors to deepen connections to one another and to their passion for musical theater.

Wrapping up the 2024–25 Broadway Season, in July we hosted a special-invite puppetry demonstration centered around *Life of Pi*, a truly unique story told with jaw-dropping visuals, world class puppetry, and exquisite stagecraft. The cast and crew of the show joined a group of around 80 donors and Broadway lovers for a lunchtime gathering to learn all about how the show’s master puppeteers make Richard Parker—the show’s Bengal Tiger—come alive on stage.

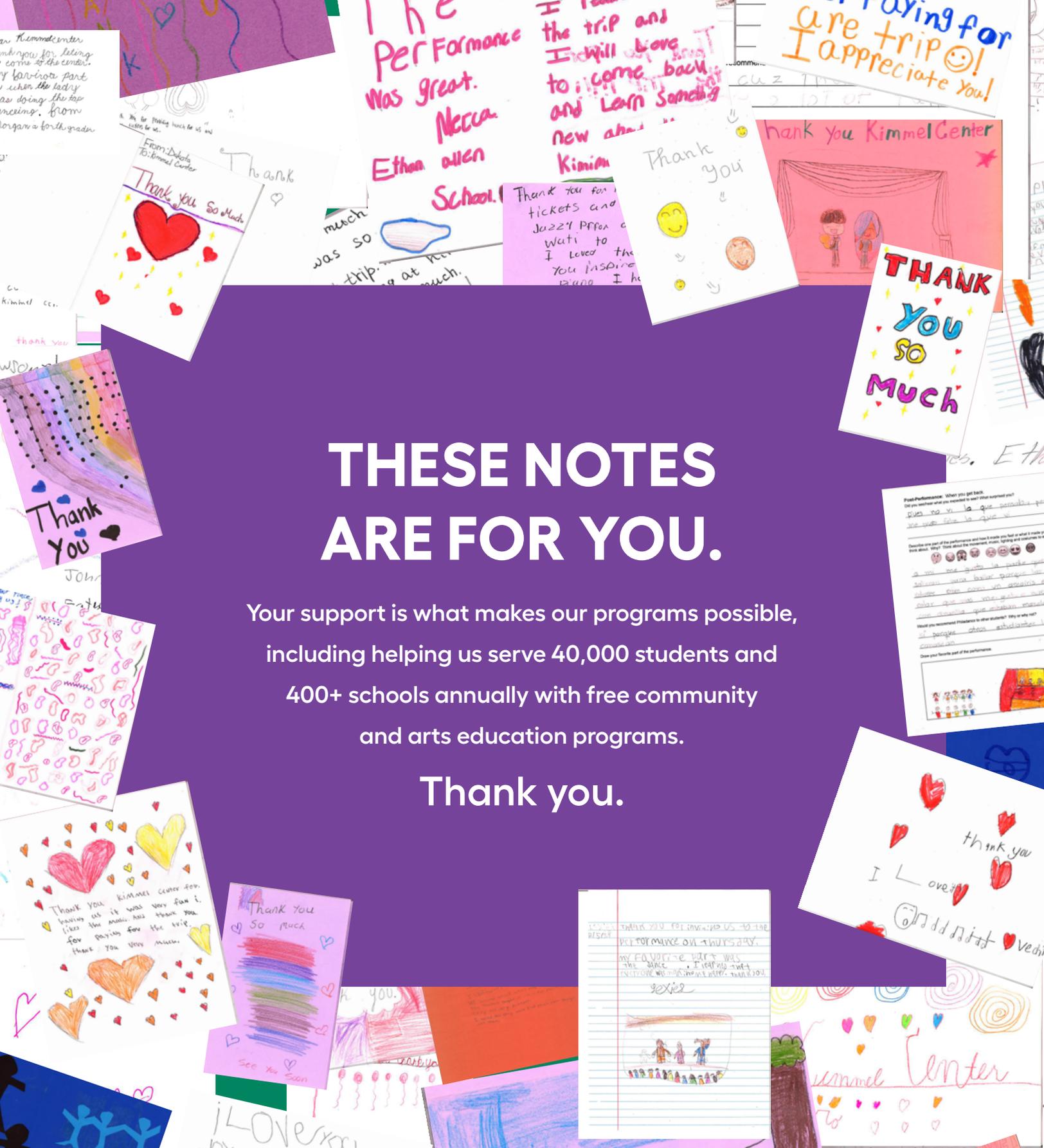


“Thank you for such a great day! I loved every minute and will await the next one with great anticipation!”

—Caroline Rogers, *Gypsy* Patron Day Trip Attendee



Life of Pi puppetry demonstration in the Academy of Music Ballroom.



THESE NOTES ARE FOR YOU.

Your support is what makes our programs possible, including helping us serve 40,000 students and 400+ schools annually with free community and arts education programs.

Thank you.

To learn more about the incredible impact of philanthropic support at Ensemble Arts, contact us at [215.790.5321](tel:215.790.5321) or Membership@EnsembleArtsPhilly.org or visit EnsembleArtsPhilly.org/support.

Photos: Allie Ippolito, Pete Checchia, Matthew Murphy/MurphyMade, Steve Ridzon, Morgan Horell, Jeremy Daniel