

MUSIC HALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THE HISTORIC MUSIC HALL, THROUGH ITS PRESENTATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS (INCLUDING COMMISSIONS OF ORIGINAL ARTISTIC WORK), PROVIDES SE MICHIGAN WITH HIGH QUALITY PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION THAT REFLECT THE DIVERSE MIX OF CULTURES THAT MAKE UP OUR COMMUNITY. MUSIC HALL IS DETROIT'S "PEOPLE'S THEATER" – THE PLACE FOR HIGH QUALITY BUT NON-ELITIST PERFORMING ARTS AND EDUCATION WITH AN EMPHASIS ON DANCE, THEATER AND MUSIC, PARTICULARLY JAZZ. MUSIC HALL AIMS TO BE THE MOST ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY.



ANNUAL REPORT

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2024-25 SEASON: BY-THE-NUMBERS

EVENTS & AUDIENCE

3	VENUES
143	MAIN STAGE EVENTS
189,000	MAIN STAGE AUDIENCE
178	JAZZ CAFÉ EVENTS
11,570	JAZZ CAFÉ AUDIENCE
82	3 FIFTY TERRACE EVENTS
55,000	3 FIFTY TERRACE AUDIENCE
403	TOTAL EVENTS
255,570	TOTAL AUDIENCE
1M+	WEB HITS
75,000	EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS
20	ORIGINAL COMMISSIONS

CAST & CREW

28	FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
255	PART TIME EMPLOYEES
58	TRUSTEES
1,321	INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
4,500	TOURING ARTISTS
1,400	LOCAL ARTISTS
75	COLLABORATING ORGANIZATION PARTNERS
300	VOLUNTEERS

SUPPORTERS

225	INDIVIDUALS
30	CORPORATIONS
8	FOUNDATIONS
3	GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

<i>STUDENTS</i>		<i>AUDIENCE</i>	
85%	AFRICAN AMERICAN	55%	AFRICAN AMERICAN
10%	CAUCASION	35%	CAUCASIAN
5%	LATINX, ARAB AMER, MIXED	10%	LATINX, MIDDLE EASTERN, MIXED

PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION OUTREACH

9	EDUCATION PROGRAMS
1,185	STUDENTS
38	SCHOOLS
50	CLASSROOMS
8	EDUCATORS ON STAFF
140	TEACHERS & CHAPERONES

FINANCIAL

\$10.2MM	BUDGET
\$30.6MM	AGGREGATE ECONOMIC IMPACT
45	VENDORS

INTRODUCING: MUSIC HALL CENTER



BACKGROUND: After many years of visioning and preparations, a dramatic expansion of Music Hall’s capacity and impact is now on its way to becoming a reality. The new Music Hall Expansion will add 100,000 square feet and seven floors of music-focused activity. It will serve our city as an attraction for the global community, with the comprehensive Detroit music experience the world has always wanted. Music Hall has assembled a world class team including Michigan firm Hamilton Anderson Associates.

THE BUILDING: Designed by world-famous, Detroit-born architect Tod Williams and his firm TWBTA / NYC, the new MHE will be an instant icon and graceful partner to the classic, vintage Music Hall. Its brand-new concert hall with capacity for 1,900 is two stories below ground and offers stadium-level amenities for guests seeking an extra special experience. At street level, visitors will find a city welcome center with access to tours, wayfinding, and tickets to cultural events all over town. Ascend the stairs to find a full music academy for Detroit youth, a dance studio, recital hall, recording studio, and music industry offices from promoters to labels to publishers and more. Don’t forget to grab a bite at one of the music-themed restaurants, and check out the outdoor, customizable digital exhibits in the alley.



FUNDING & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES: The majority of the project’s capital stack is accomplished through the issuance of 501(c)(3) bonds, to be underwritten by Barclays Capital and Siebert Williams Shank and issued through the Detroit Economic Development Corporation. Numerous naming opportunities are available, with principal coordination through Cleveland’s Superlative Group.

OUR WORK: ONSTAGE

Our work is largely grouped into **FOUR PRESENTATION SERIES:**
Family Theater, Contemporary Dance, Urban Theater, and of course ... Music!



Across our three stages it was a wonderfully busy year, all made possible by a strong and cohesive team. From intimate solo shows in Aretha's Jazz Café to sold-out concerts and plays on the Main Stage, our front-of-house and hospitality staffs ensure all runs as smooth as silk. Stagecraft is expertly provided by Detroit Stage and Film Technicians Union - IATSE Local 38.

True to our original 'variety house' concept, we're not easy to capture in a sound bite! That very diversity is a big part of why Music Hall has stood tall as downtown's pre-eminent cultural center for 97 years, with a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion dating to 1928. Our presentation partners further add to our deep bench of talent, with concerts presented through Hollywood Greektown Casino-Hotel, and dance and opera partner co-presentations with Detroit Opera.



Our longtime friends at Lightwire Theater continue to enchant fans of our **Family Theater Series**, with their unique interpretations of classic stories such as Moon Mouse or The Tortoise & The Hare, meeting contemporary kids right where they are with plenty of eye-catching visuals and great music. The Series draws families together, inspiring an early love of live performance, with works created by companies dedicated to children's theater

and showing kids that there is life beyond screens!

Parents happily report that their children will ask for specific books following one of our staged presentations.



Whether *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Charlotte's Web*, or *The Little Prince*, *The Family Theater Series* shows kids kids that there's more to life than screens.



It was a great season for our **Contemporary Dance series!** These works keep Detroit plugged in to the global dance scene and connect us with the area's large dance student community. Highlights this year included *Complexions Contemporary Ballet* (at left -- a company that transcends boundaries as they explore the limitless possibilities of movement, fusing contemporary with classical styles. The performance was presented in collaboration with our partners at the Detroit Opera House.

A special event in February was **RUBY: The Musical**, three performances presented in conjunction with *The Michigan Chronicle* and the Knight Foundation. The gripping true story of Ruby McCollum's heroic survival of racial injustice in the Deep South in 1952, it was the 'must-see' Black history month of the year and is continuing on to tour the country.

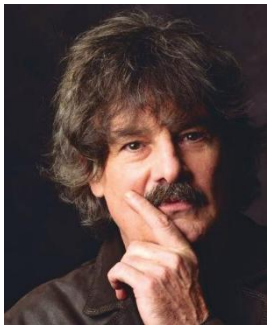
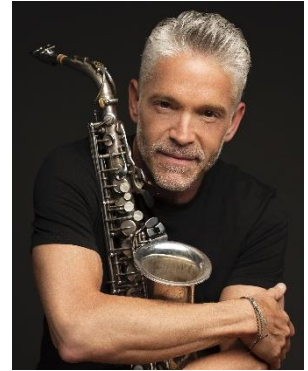
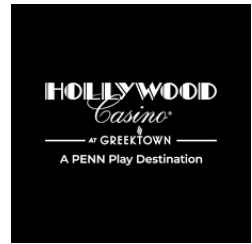


A highlight of the **Urban Theater Series** had to be Jason's Lyric, based on the same story as the earlier film. There were four packed performances in March for the story of a man haunted by his past and a guarded woman who must fight for their love and future amidst the challenges of family, betrayal, and dark forces in the gritty streets of Houston.



Je'Caryous Johnson is a frequent collaborator with Music Hall -- a formidable and prolific talent who writes, directs, and produces works that speak to the lives of Detroit's majority population. The Series is emblematic of our commitment to our urban base -- a wealth of culturally-specific ideas and expression.

This season's **Music Series** was just off the charts. With special thanks to our partners at Hollywood Greektown Casino-Hotel, our audiences were treated to some truly amazing performances – Air Supply, Average White Band, Celtic Thunder, Deitrick Haddon, El De Barge, the National Arab Orchestra, Collective Soul, Dave Koz, Grand Funk Railroad, Burton Cummings, Abeer Nehme, Boney James, Janis Siegel, Nneena Freelon, Richard Marx and more!



Be sure to watch for the latest and greatest on Instagram @musichalldetroit and on Facebook @MusicHallDetroit





Aretha's Jazz Café is going stronger than ever, with a fantastic team operating on a nearly-constant basis, serving dinner and drinks during main stage shows and serving up


entire experiences the rest of the time. Of special note this year is the growth of tribute shows, which bring our area's emerging talent to the stage with the phenomenal music of the ages. It's a magical thing to slip into the cozy space and be surrounded by the music of the greats. And it ties us to our roots -- many of these artists have performed on our stages over the decades.

Tribute Show Honorees this year included Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, Dinah Washington, Nina Simone, Etta James, Billie Holiday, Carlos Santana, Al Jarreau, Donny Hathaway, Bill Withers, Louis Armstrong, Billy Eckstine, Nancy Wilson, Bessie Smith, Grover Washington, Roberta Flack, Whitney Houston, and Natalie Cole.



2024-25 SEASON AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 2024	4	AIR SUPPLY	
	5	AVERAGE WHITE BAND	
	6	CELTIC THUNDER	
	11	LITTLE RIVER BAND	
	12	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	
	18-20	COUPLES TRIP	
NOVEMBER 2024	2	EL DEBARGE AND DAVID HOLLISTER	
	9	NATIONAL ARAB ORCHESTRA	
	10	SWAN LAKE	
	16	COLLECTIVE SOUL	
	23	NUTCRACKER	
30	DETRICK HADDON HOMECOMING LIVE		
DECEMBER 2024	8	WHO BROUGHT THE HUMBUG	
	7-8	COMPLEXIONS	
	14	AMADEUS QUARTET	
	15	DAVE KOZ CHRISTMAS	
	21	VIETNAMESE SHOW	
	26	SNOW QUEEN	
JAN. 2025	17-19	DON'T JUDGE ME	
	25	LUNAR NEW YEAR CONCERT	
FEB. 2025	6-9	"RUBY" THE MUSICAL	
	14	RICHARD MARX	
MARCH 2025	7-9	JASON'S LYRIC	
	13	JOE GATTO	
	16	MOON MOUSE	
	21	BURTON CUMMINGS	
	22	MICHAEL CARBONARO	
APRIL 2025	6	MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2	
	10-13	B.A.P.S	
	19	STATE OF THE RACE CONCERT	
	27	MOMIX	
JUNE 2025	13	BONEY JAMES	

 This show is a
Hollywood Casino at
Greektown presentation

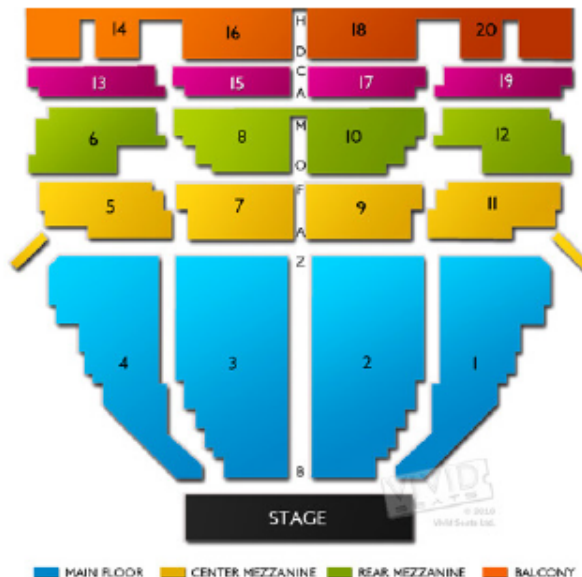


Music Hall wants to take the opportunity to thank our partner, Hollywood Casino at Greektown, for joining with us to bring some of the greatest celebrity talents in the world to our stage. We have enjoyed many incredible concerts together, and are looking forward to a whole new season's worth of life memories!

All shows and times are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.musichall.org and www.jazzcafedetroit.com for information and a complete listing of all performances.

Music Hall Staff

- Karen McBride – Director of Programming
- Yale Porter - Comptroller
- Angelo Alexander – Engineering
- Eric Bouye– Jazz Café
- Samantha Blosser – Education
- Latasha Burnett – Director of Trustee Relations
- John Douglas – Education
- Julie Gervais –Director of Development
- DeAndre Gillespie – Engineering
- Scott Gwinnell – Director of Music Education
- Jiana Hunter – Education
- Bob Johnson – House Manager
- Derek Gillis – Food and Beverage Manager
- Kim Johnson- Asst. Box Office Manager
- Keith Johnson - Asst. House Manager
- Desmond Marshal – Engineering
- Cindy Morgan – Box Office Manager
- Ted Nagy – Jazz Café Programming Director
- Jessie Metzler – Digital Media
- Maria Petrenko – Director of Marketing
- Sean Perlmutter – Education
- Matt Lee – Public Relations
- Michael McClendon - Building Engineer
- Jason Smith – Education
- Jordan Schug – Education
- Tayvion Browner – Head Chef
- Perry Cook – Assistant Chef



OUR WORK: IN CLASS

The duration of our commitment to arts education services in Detroit schools is approaching two decades. District leadership and faculty are eager to place our teaching artists, who bring a high degree of cultural sensitivity along with artistry and teaching skills. We currently engage **six** instructors who reach some **1,200** students each year, ages 4-18, through **seven** educational segments that synergize with our stage presentations. Lessons are conducted primarily in Detroit public schools, addressing the inequitable access to arts instruction faced by students in underfunded districts. The programs are free to all, and flexible for all ability levels. We know that for many of these students, our programs are their only structured exposure to the performing arts – a discipline proven to benefit students’ academic and eventual career success.



*** Elementary Music Education at The School at Marygrove * High School Music Education at The School at Marygrove * Jazz for Young People * Jazz Jam Educational Workshops * Dance Master Classes * High School Big Band Performance Nights ***

Elementary Music Education at The School at Marygrove



As The School at Marygrove (TSM) continues to add grades to its enrollment, Music Hall continues to add classes to our instruction schedule. For TSM elementary, the school year included lessons for grades K-4, conducted by Josie Ala, a graduate of the University of Michigan Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation Program. Gifted with early learners, Josie has developed and refined curriculum. Students play child-friendly instruments, sing, and use movement to create their own music and to interpret the tunes of the greats – including the many major musical stars who come from Detroit! Lessons are

interactive, using games, rhythm activities, and movement. We are honored to be the sole provider of these services at TSM, working in conjunction with The University of Michigan and the Detroit Public Schools Community District.



High School Music Education at The School at Marygrove



Our after-school music program at TSM has been going strong since 2019, with a team of six instructors creating newly-minted instrumentalists and vocalists. Band and choir classes run all week, supplemented by an introductory music theory & appreciation class. In recognition of our work, TSM built a state-of-the-art band room and practice rooms, offering an inspiring and acoustically excellent setting for learning and practicing. The team is led by Scott Gwinnell, Music Hall's Director of Music Education. Scott is also a faculty member at

Oakland University, and is a highly-acclaimed orchestra leader, composer, and pianist. We are fortunate to have him! The students now have regular performances throughout the year – on-campus as well as on-site here in Aretha's Jazz Café and on our Main Stage for TSM commencement exercises.



Jazz for Young People



Jason Smith, legendary in Detroit schools for his boundless enthusiasm, instructs this introductory jazz appreciation course, based on the popular concert series from Lincoln Center. The curriculum is flexible for elementary - middle school students and is taught in the District's four 'feeder' schools as part of the Cultural Pathways program: Brenda Scott Academy, Ellington Conservatory at



Beckham Academy, John R King Academic and Performing Arts Academy, and Spain Elementary-Middle. The interactive lessons explore core concepts and major figures in jazz, enlivening this rich cultural heritage and drawing out the form's pervasiveness in contemporary pop music, rap, R&B and more. Students' ears tend to perk up when they learn about the connections between their favorite songs and the jazz form.



Jazz Jam Educational Workshops

Free and open to the public on Sunday evenings and with personalized guidance available for students of all ages. The Jams are an enhanced version of the time-tested method of mentor/student practice as a means of transferring jazz knowledge and skills to the next generation. Students develop the confidence needed to survive the night onstage, playing different tunes in unfamiliar keys, with difficult tempos, in front of an audience, oftentimes alongside virtual strangers. And just like that, they begin to speak the language that only other jazz players understand. As the experienced and new musicians mingle socially and musically, they carry on the legacy of a 'bandstand education' that has nurtured the art form for ages.



Contemporary Dance Master Classes

In conjunction with our Contemporary Dance Series, which connects Detroiters to the world's global dance scene, we bring teaching artists from our touring companies together with the area's aspiring dancers. We scan the globe for dance that represents our region's diverse cultures as well as work that keeps Detroit in the loop with the latest developments in contemporary choreography. You may remember the name of Sonya Tayeh, who emerged from Detroit's creative dance pipeline to join the panel of 'So You Think You Can Dance' and is now in-demand for her work on Broadway and with concert dance companies around the country.

High School Big Band Performance Nights

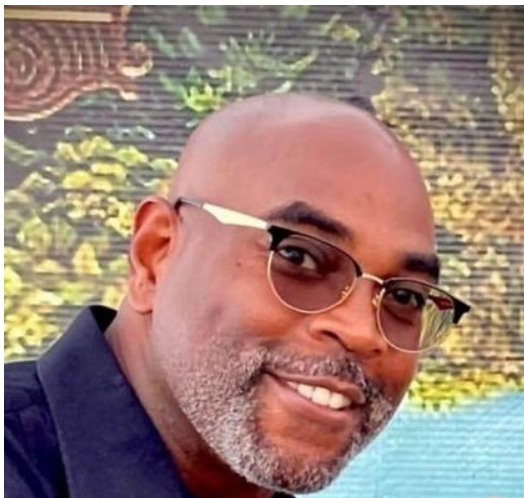
'In The Tradition' - Middle school and high school bands from Detroit and the greater region perform in Aretha's Jazz Cafe monthly. Double-billed with a performance of the Scott Gwinnett Jazz Orchestra, the students receive guidance and mentorship from the pros, for a well-rounded educational experience.



OUR BUILDING & FACILITIES



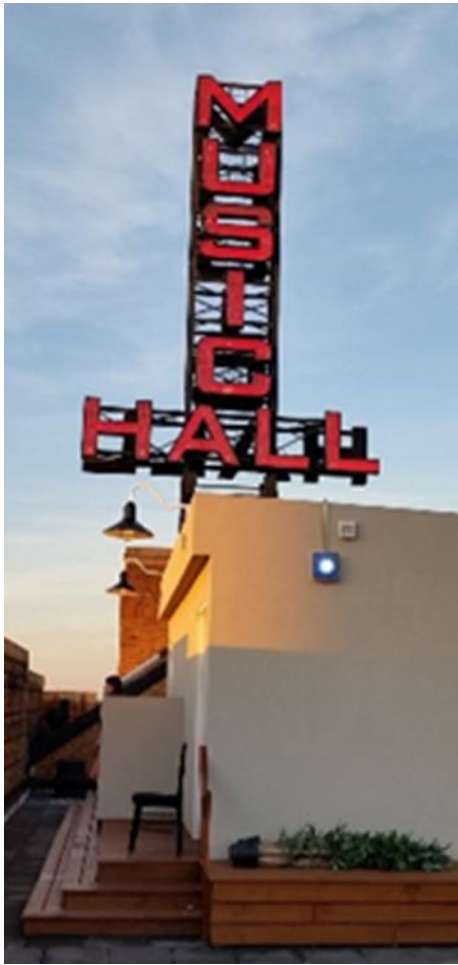
The 3Fifty Terrace continues to be a joyous seasonal venue for thousands of young adults as well as special-event attendees. Following another Michigan winter, this year's TLC consisted of new seating benches & tables, which were built on-site. The DJ area received upgrades as well.



Our building & facilities require constant investment to ensure the best possible experience for our patrons. This year, with the help of funding from the MI Arts & Culture Council, we hired the Arcadia Seating Co. of Holland, MI to repair the 'spring-back' functionality of all 747 seats on the main floor. As the number of annual Main Stage performances grows, so too does the wear & tear on the seats. This project became increasingly urgent as the upright spring action of many seats no longer functioned. In restoring full functionality, we achieved excellent improvement in guest comfort and in workflow efficiency for our custodial staff.



Special mention to our dynamic Chief Building Engineer Michael McClendon for quickly acquiring a deep knowledge of the building and its systems, freeing up President & Artistic Director Vince Paul to focus on operations and the Music Hall Expansion. Mike leads his team by example, setting a high bar for meticulous work. The building welcomes more and more visitors each year and thanks to our Engineering team, we're ready to offer them our very best!



FINANCIAL CONDITION

Music Hall is in an excellent financial position, ending the 2024 fiscal year with an annual surplus of \$254,009 -- our 14th consecutive year of cash flowing positive. Our operations have reached an elevated level of activity and community impact unprecedented in its 97-year history.

Our fiscal success is built on a diversified revenue platform, carefully built in the wake of the 2008 economic shock. Our business model employs a much higher proportion of earned revenue than is common in the sector, and is proving extremely durable. Our fiscal discipline has led us to develop numerous sources of related earned revenue in support of our non-profit mission as a means of assuring long-term sustainability.

Our diversification strategy, both in programming and operations, complements our growth strategy. Over the past decade, our annual budget has nearly tripled; partnerships are the key to our ascent. We work with Detroit Opera to offer patrons more options in dance and opera performances, and with Hollywood Greektown Casino to present some forty annual concerts by some of the biggest names in show business today. Together, these partnerships add more than \$5M in annual revenue from tickets, building preservation fees and concessions. These shows increase awareness of the Hall's overall programming, bringing tens of thousands of new audience members

with high levels of disposable income and an affinity for live performing arts.

In pursuit of even greater growth, we will soon break ground on the Music Hall Expansion, a 100,000 SF multi-modal music facility, on the property adjacent to our current building. In March 2022, with the financial support of fifteen members of our Board of Trustees, we purchased the lot for \$4.6M. It had been in service as a fourth venue – the Music Hall Amphitheater -- for several years, and has now sunset as we undertake development of a permanent, transformative new structure. The Expansion, focused on music and the business of music, will be an iconic gateway to the City. It will raise Music Hall's total annual budget to \$35M and will serve as a strong stimulant to Detroit's overall economic growth. It will contain a state-of-the-art concert hall, a not-for-profit music academy, a welcome center and interactive music exhibit inclusive of all genres of Detroit music, a suite of music industry offices, a recording studio, tourist and guest services, and a year-round rooftop special events venue. The alley space between the two buildings will also be developed into activated attraction similar to the nearby 'Parker's Alley' and 'The Belt'. Slightly over \$6M in 2024 capitalized expenses is related to the pre-development of its construction.

Scheduled to open in 2028, the new building will add 350 annual events, engage thousands of performing artists, entertain 300,000 additional event attendees, employ 446 new full-time employees, and activate 30 independent contractor vendors.

Music Hall is audited annually by the Montgomery Associates Certified Public Accounting Firm.



Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.
Statement of Activity
For the Period Ended 09/30/2025

<u>INCOME</u>	\$267,496
Individual Donations & Producer Dues	15,000
Corporate Contributions	467,765
Foundation Contributions & Grants	71,775
Government Grants	535,000
Naming Rights & Sponsorship Income	4,320,584
Rental Show Income	385,039
In-House Show Income	171,733
Preservation Fee Income	348,691
Jazz Café Income & Sponsorship	125,650
Education Sponsorship	420,000
Parking Lot Income	113,604
Jumbotron Income	600,297
3Fifty Terrace Income	89,446
Non-Cash Income	33,210
Miscellaneous Income	<u>\$7,965,289</u>
TOTAL INCOME	
<u>EXPENSES</u>	\$1,149,219
Payroll - Full-time Staff	457,609
Payroll - Rental Show	68,807
Payroll - In-House Shows	187,741
Payroll - Education Staff	226,193
Benefits - Full-time Staff	94,939
Benefits - Stagehands	2,825,342
Rental Show Expenses	333,027
In-House Show Expenses	236,720
Jazz Café Expenses	4,758
Education Expenses	271,038
Parking Lot Interest & Expenses	330
Jumbotron Expenses	459,290
3Fifty Terrace Expenses	191,393
Depreciation Expense	135,389
Business Insurance Expense	22,350
Interest Expense	304,513
Building Mortgage Expense	358,922
Utilities and Building Operations	155,445
Advertising and Marketing	29,050
Legal and Audit	230,550
Administration and Overhead	<u>\$7,742,627</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	
ORDINARY INCOME OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	\$222,663
Unrealized Gain(Loss) on Investments	\$1,864
NET INCOME OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	<u>\$224,527</u>



Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of 9/30/2025

	Current Year-to-Date	Prior Year-End	Change
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	\$186,127	\$150,014	\$36,113
Investment Accounts	16,674	13,695	\$2,979
Accounts Receivable	160,160	322,275	(162,115)
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	(4,500)	(39,500)	35,000
Pledges Receivable	36,000	155,000	(119,000)
Inventory	104,766	116,256	(11,490)
Prepaid Show Expenses	69,045	71,790	(2,745)
Prepaid Operating Expenses	323,454	60,292	263,162
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$891,725	\$849,821	\$41,904
FIXED ASSETS			
Land, Building, and Equipment	\$7,602,948	\$7,355,187	\$247,761
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,610,599)	(1,419,205)	(191,393)
Capital Projects in Progress	6,759,136	5,642,256	1,116,880
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$12,751,485	\$11,578,237	\$1,173,248
OTHER ASSETS			
Life Insurance Policy Value	\$189,100	\$189,100	(\$0)
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	\$189,100	\$189,100	(\$0)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$13,832,310	\$12,617,159	\$1,215,151
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$3,552,001	\$3,664,632	(\$112,632)
Deferred Revenue	879,511	899,608	(20,097)
Accrued Expenses	316,677	381,316	(64,638)
Accrued Payroll	241,624	227,584	14,040
Sales Tax Payable	207,956	150,492	57,464
Notes & Interest Payable - Current	1,068,856	1,009,446	59,410
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$6,266,626	\$6,333,078	(\$66,452)
LONG-TERM DEBT			
Parking Lot Mortgage	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$0
Parking Lot 2nd Mortgage	800,000	150,000	650,000
Life Insurance Loan	617,000	400,000	217,000
Trustee Loan	500,000	500,000	0
SBA EID Loan	396,509	483,851	(87,342)
Building Note	522,265	244,846	277,419
TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT	\$6,435,774	\$5,378,697	\$1,057,077
NET ASSETS			
Fund Balance	\$905,384	\$788,640	\$116,743
Year-to-Date Net Income(Loss)	224,527	116,743	107,783
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,129,910	\$905,384	\$224,527
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$13,832,310	\$12,617,159	\$1,215,151

LEADERSHIP

Music Hall is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, governed by a 58-member Board of Trustees, which is led by a 12-member Executive Committee. Our Trustees are community leaders in the business and cultural sectors and – as with our staff – reflect the true demographic diversity of our community.

The staff is comprised of the President / Artistic Director, 28 full-time artistic, operations and development professionals and approximately 255 part-time staff of ushers, stagehands, bartenders, servers, cooks, electricians, marketing, maintenance staff and artists. Our current annual budget is approximately \$10.2MM. Our key staff have a minimum of twelve years of working together – a tight, focused, and supportive group. Collectively, we are highly networked throughout the community.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Mr. Leland K. Bassett, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Elliot S. Hall, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Cameron B. Duncan, Treasurer

Mr. Shaun W. Wilson, Secretary

Mr. Vincent C. Paul, President

Mr. Gordon Follmer

Mr. David Gaskin

Mr. Brian Mooney

Mr. Roy Roberts

Mrs. Michele A. Samuels

Mr. Ricardo Solomon

Mr. Jeffrey Vanneste





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Ms. Ann Hall
Civic & Community Leader

Mr. Elliott Hall – *Vice Chairman*
Attorney
Elliott Hall PLLC

Mr. Rainy Hamilton, Jr.
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Mr. Hill Harper
Actor & Author

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Jackson Automotive Management
Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores

Mr. Burt Jordan
President & Director
Atlantic Coastal Acquisition Corporation

Mr. Roger Kasle
Former CEO & Owner
Kasle Steel

Mrs. Lisa Kasle
Nutritionist & Yoga Instructor

Mrs. Paulette Koffron
Retired Teacher

Mr. Jeffrey McKelvey
Ypsilanti District President
Bank of Ann Arbor

Mr. Brian Mooney
President
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Co-Leader, Mergers &
Acquisitions Practice Group
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Mr. Vincent C. Paul – *President*
President & Artistic Director
Music Hall

Ms. Pattie Prowse
Civic & Community Leader

Mr. Luis Resto
Academy Award winning composer

Mrs. Cheryl Richardson
Civic & Community Leader

Mr. Leon C. Richardson
President & CEO
ChemicoMays, LLC

Mr. Roy S. Roberts
Civic & Community Leader

Mrs. Amanda Ross
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Mr. Shaun Wilson - *Secretary*

Managing Partner
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* Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Vincent C. Paul, President and Artistic Director

International performing arts specialist with 40 years' managerial experience

Karen McBride, Main Stage Director of Programming, Education Director

National and international performing artist management specialist with 40 years' experience

Ted Nagy, Jazz Café Director of Programming

Local and regional music specialist with 25 years' experience

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

Maria Petrenko – Graphic design, Branding, Marketing

Matt Lee - Media and Press Relations

Jessie Metzler / AllSocial Jessie – Digital Media

Jerald McBride - Media Placement

PRODUCTION

Cody Cohoon – Technical Director

JAZZ CAFÉ MANAGEMENT & CONCESSIONS

Derek Gillis - Food & Beverage Manager

Tayvion Browner – Head Chef

Perry Cook – Asst. Chef

OPERATIONS

Yale Porter – Comptroller

Bob Johnson - Front of House Manger

Cindy Morgan - Box Office Manager

Keith Johnson – Assistant Front of House Manager

Kim Johnson – Assistant Box Office Manager

DEVELOPMENT

Julie Gervais – Director of Development

Latasha Burnett – Director of Trustee Relationships

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Scott Gwinnell – Music Education Director, Instructor of jazz vocals, piano, musicianship

Jason Smith - Jazz for Young People & Theater for Young People Instructor

Jordan Schug – Jazz Band Ensemble Instructor and instrument tutor

Jiana Hunter – Vocal Instruction & Choir Director

Sean Perlmutter – Percussion Instructor

Josie Ala – Elementary Music Instructor

BUILDING ENGINEERING

Michael McClendon -- Chief Building Engineer

Angelo Alexander -- Engineering

DeAndre Gillespie – Engineering

Desmond Marshall – Elevator Operations

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



Scott Gwinnell, Music Education Director

Scott is a pianist/composer/arranger/educator from Detroit. He has performed, recorded, and/or toured with Aretha Franklin, Vanessa Williams, Roberta Flack, Rodney Whitaker, Marcus Belgrave, Delfayo Marsalis, and many more luminaries. He has played on over 20 recordings and has five records to his own name. His trio is the Friday evening house band at the historic London Chop House, and he was the first artist signed to the Mack Ave. subsidiary label, Detroit Music Factory. As an 11-time award-winning BMI composer, Gwinnell has written over 400 compositions and arrangements ranging from solo

piano to symphony orchestra. He has taught music full and part time at the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, and Wayne County Community College. In addition to his Music Hall position, he is the Ensemble Director for MSU Community Music School and a lecturer at Oakland University.

Kern Brantley, Leader of House Band 'KINGDOM'

Kern serves as the bassist and musical director for some of the biggest names in music today. His extensive resume includes work with Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Mary J Blige, Ne-Yo, Destiny's Child, Chris Brown, Chinese superstar JJ Lin, and many more. He has performed in over 2,000 live shows, 20+ concert tours, 50+ TV appearances including the Grammys, Oscars, The Tonight Show, Late Night with David Letterman, Ellen, Oprah, and SNL. He has over 100 recording credits, and Grammy-winning and multi-platinum selling albums. Kern cites his Detroit upbringing and influences with the inspiration for his style & mastery of the electric bass.

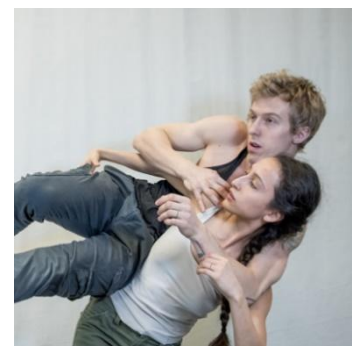


Michael Ibrahim, Founder & Music Director, National Arab Orchestra

Founded in 2009, the NAO was originally a takht – a small chamber music group comprised of oud (Arab lute), qanun (Arab harp), violin, nay (Arab reed flute) and riqq (Arab tambourine). As it grew to become a full orchestra with musicians of both Arab and non-Arab backgrounds, the NAO became Music Hall's resident orchestra in 2012. The Orchestra is committed to presenting both traditional and contemporary Arab music and to bridging social & cultural barriers.

BAIRA Movement Philosophy

Recently returned to their hometown from NYC, BAIRA is a Detroit based dance-theatre company under the direction of Shaina and Bryan Baira. Born circa 2014, their approach to movement harmonizes entertainment, social consideration, and artistic innovation and is rooted in extreme athleticism, refined sensitivity, and a deeply evocative, personal theatricality. BAIRA productions revolve thematically around relationships and life, seeking to inspire consideration for the potential of our human experience. They work in the belief that while art may not change the world alone, it will inspire the next conversation, idea, or person who will.





Gwen Foxx, Vocalist in Residence

An exhilarating song stylist, Gwen specializes in R&B, jazz and classical standards. She has performed at the "Gospel Mega Fest" with T.D. Jakes, at the Atlanta CNN Conference Center with KEM, at the Blue Note Lounge with Chaka Khan, at Aretha Franklin's Annual Christmas Celebration, at the "Essence Music Festival" with Luther Vandross and many more. Miss Foxx served as vocal director and background singer for Mary J. Blige on her 'Share My World' Tour. Her solo debut CD "Quiet Storm" on Milan Records represents a beautiful mix of velvety jazzy R&B with a hip hop flavor. The title track "Quiet Storm" is a mid-tempo delight pulls at your heartstrings as her voice guides you through a quiet storm.

Joel 'Fluent' Greene, Poet in Residence

Joel Fluent Greene is a Detroit based poet, author and event curator. A 'Spirit Of Detroit' Award winner, Joel was the long-running host of Detroit's iconic Cafe Mahogany poetry nights and has shared the stage with acts as diverse as The Roots, Pharrell Williams, The Last Poets, Big Sean, Saul Williams, Jessica Care Moore, and The Detroit Red Wings. He has also acted as MC at events for Fiat Chrysler Corporation, 100 Black Men of America, Inside-Out Detroit, The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and Music Hall. As former director of Music Hall's Words and Rhythms of the D outreach program, he held workshops and performances in over 50 area schools. His poetry collections include WAXING/waning, Poems of Bungalow & Concrete, Somewhere In The Middle/ Love Poems & Felt. A Collection of Personal Favorites. Joel is currently creative writing instructor at Mariners Inn, a Detroit shelter and treatment center. At least once a month, he sells out performances in Aretha's Jazz Café of his poetry series 'A Man Can Change'.



Igor Gozman, Puppet Artist in Residence

Under Igor's Artistic Direction, PuppetART has been delighting family audiences in downtown Detroit's Entertainment District for 20 years. When development usurped their longtime space in 2017, Music Hall welcomed the creative team as Artists In Residence. PuppetART's repertoire is rooted in classical European puppetry, mixing favorites such as Snow Queen and Crane Maiden with original creations such as Banana for Turtle. Igor & his team work with Music Hall educators to create engaging family activities. "... from the Universe perspective, humans are the microbes designed to convert material into spiritual".

A BRIEF HISTORY



Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts opened as the Wilson Theatre on December 9, 1928 with a production of Florenz Ziegfeld's 'Rosalie'.

Designed and built as a 'legitimate' theater (for live performing arts) amidst many new 1920s movie palaces, it is the creation of Matilda Dodge Wilson, who envisioned a top tier venue that welcomed men and women of ALL ethnicities to its audience and its stages. Her commitment to a standard of inclusion, unheard of in its day, remain central to our current mission and work.

The building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in Detroit, and most of the original elements – wood paneling, silk drapes, torchieres – remain today.



Fred Astaire and the Ballets Russes have left footprints on our boards, the swing of Count Basie still reverberates, and the voices of Eartha Kitt and Ella Fitzgerald have reached into the rafters. Traces of Marcel Marceau's silent magic linger, and Ray Charles declared us one of his all-time favorite houses to play!



The name was changed to Music Hall when it became home to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (1944-1953), broadcasting the Ford Sunday Evening Hour to the nation. In 1953, a giant curved Cinerama screen was installed, along with custom surround projection and sound, drawing fans in such numbers that films ran for a minimum of six months. Michigan Opera Theatre was launched here in 1971, adding opera to the mix of Mrs. Wilson's vision for an inclusive variety house. A courageous band of civic leaders and Trustees saved the building from the ill-conceived civic wrecking ball in 1974.



In 2006, under the new leadership of Vincent C. Paul, a former cloakroom was converted to a second stage: the Jazz Café. In 2018, the venue was rechristened 'Aretha's Jazz Café' in honor of the Queen of Soul's wish for a downtown venue to carry on her legacy. Over the years and especially with the renewed energy in the downtown Theater District, the Café is a busy operation, hosting performances on most nights that the Main Stage is not booked. Artists are predominantly local and regional, feeding the legendary Detroit pipeline with talent that has put in the time to learn the craft.



A third stage was also added in 2014, when we opened 3Fifty Terrace on the building's seventh-story rooftop – a seasonal

hotspot nestled among the City's architectural gems. The Terrace is wildly popular with 21-35 year olds, drawing crowds every night in the warm months and serving as an important source of revenue during the normally inactive months on the main stage.



In 2021, the Music Hall Amphitheater was opened, bringing our total venues to four. The Amphitheater was the brainchild of necessity and boldness, predicated on the forecast that our communities would welcome a safe outdoor venue as the pandemic began to recede, and built during a time of financial hardship brought on by the pandemic closure. It was a huge hit and has now closed to prepare for construction.

LEGACY AND ARCHITECTURE



Beginning in 1924, a team of architects lead by William Kapp from the renowned firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls traveled to London and throughout France, Italy and Spain. Their patron was Detroit's visionary heiress Matilda Dodge Wilson and their mission was to visit the great theaters and opera houses of the day, taking note of the best acoustics,

sightlines, technical capabilities and décor. This would inform their creation of a world-class variety performing arts theater in Detroit, Michigan. For \$1.5MM, they created The Wilson Theater, a house equal to any of the world's finest live performance venues. Inclusion and accessibility were key to the Theater's original mission. As a participant in the fledgling auto industry, Mrs. Wilson had witnessed the impact that cultural diversity played elevating Detroit in innovations and technology, and she believed that theatre must be made available to everyone regardless of their race, culture or financial means.

The theatre was constructed as a 100' x 160' rectangular, six-story Art Deco Theater with walls of light colored stone. Orange and tan brick were used as ornament and the building is trimmed with colorful mosaic tile inside and out. The entrance facade is divided into several bays by wide stone pillars topped by theatrical terra cotta masks representing comedy and drama by Italian sculptor Corrado Parducci and thin pillars separating window bays. The stunning interior, decorated in an elaborate Spanish Renaissance style, seats 1701 guests. At its debut, the venue boasted perfect sightlines, polycylindric walls for impeccable acoustics and not one seat more than 77 feet from the stage.

On December 9, 1928, the grand opening of The Wilson Theater in downtown Detroit set in motion a 91-year legacy with an opening gala presentation of the Ziegfeld Follies. Florenz Ziegfeld himself was one of the first members of the board. This legitimate theater originally housed touring Broadway productions in Detroit's main theater district. The name was changed to Music Hall when it became home to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra - from 1944-1953. In 1953, Music Hall became home to CINERAMA, and quickly built a following that commanded six-month runs of the popular CINERAMA pictures.

In 1974, city planners slated Music Hall for the wrecking ball in order to merge Madison and Gratiot Avenues. A concerted intervention by the loyal board of Trustees, The Detroit Renaissance, Kresge Foundation, and community leaders succeeded in saving this historic theater., which received its historic State marker on September 12, 1976 and was added to the National Historic Landmark registry the following year (Site ID#P25287).

In 1986, a 5-year strategic business plan was formulated and a \$6.5MM facility restoration campaign commenced, which returned the classic Art Deco hall to its original grandeur. Since then, numerous restoration projects and exacting general maintenance have kept the Hall running and looking beautiful.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

AAA, AARP, Absopure, Adams Outdoor, Avis Ford, Bank of Ann Arbor, Bassett Business Group, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Bridgewater Interiors, Broadway in Detroit, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Comerica Bank, Detroit Athletic Club, Dana Corporation, DTE Energy, Detroit Regional Chamber, DTE Energy, Energy Design System Services, Fifth Third Bank, Ford Motor Company Fund, Hollywood Casino at Greektown, Global Alliance Automotive, Henry Ford Health Systems, Honigman, Integrity Building Group, ITC, Johnson Controls, Kenwal Steel, Lear Corporation, Masco Corporation, Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores, Michigan Chronicle, Morgan Stanley, Netlink, PNC Bank, Quicken Loans, Rock Ventures, Sue Ellen Eisenberg & Associates PC, UHY Advisors, Warner Norcross & Judd, Xeeva

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ArtsMidwest, Ballmer Group, Bloomberg Philanthropies, City of Detroit, Detroit Downtown Development Authority, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Detroit Theater District Business Association, Detroit Public Schools Community District, DPS Foundation, Vera & Joseph Dresner Foundation, Erb Family Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Max & Marjorie Fisher Foundation, Michigan Arts & Culture Council, Milner Hotels Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Oliver Dewey Marcks Foundation, The Skillman Foundation



OH, THE TALES THESE BOARDS CAN TELL!

~ IN THE PAST 15 YEARS! ~

Burt Bacharach ... Anita Baker ... Jon Batiste ... Sandra Bernhard ... Michael Bolton ... Jackson Browne ... Ray Charles ... Stanley Clarke ... George Clinton ... Snoop Dogg ... Michael Feinstein ... Roberta Flack ... Aretha Franklin ... Savion Glover ... Whoopi Goldberg ... Kevin Hart ... Jennifer Holiday ... The Jacksons ... Etta James ... Al Jarreau ... Quincy Jones ... Chaka Khan ... Bettye Lavette ... Ute Lemper ... Annie Lennox ... Bill Maher ... Branford Marsalis ... Wynton Marsalis ... Hugh Masekela ... Pat Metheny ... Chrisette Michelle ... Marcus Miller ... Liza Minelli ... Meshell Ndegeocello ... Tyler Perry ... Jean-Luc Ponté ... Gregory Porter ... Dianne Reeves ... Little Richard ... Lionel Richie ... Smokey Robinson ... Sonny Rollins ... Linda Ronstadt ... Mitch Ryder ... Esperanza Spalding ... Elaine Stritch ... Wanda Sykes ... Allen Toussaint ... Usher ... Steve Van Zandt ... Cassandra Wilson ... Dionne Warwick ... Stevie Wonder ...

