PRESERVE. ENGAGE. CELEBRATE.

# A YEAR OF IMPACT AT MUSIC HALL



## 2025–2026 IMPACT REPORT

**Preserving a landmark. Sharing its stories. Welcoming the community.**

FRIENDS *of* MUSIC HALL



## A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL

# MUSIC HALL'S FUTURE IS SOMETHING WE BUILD TOGETHER

**This year was one of both progress and possibility for Friends of Music Hall.**

We invested in the preservation of this extraordinary landmark, welcomed thousands of people through tours, talks and performances, created new community partnerships and completed a strategic plan that will guide our work for the next three years.

At the center of it all are people: the donors who invest in Music Hall's future, the volunteers who bring its stories to life, the partners who help us reach new audiences and the guests who walk through its doors.

As Music Hall approaches its 150th anniversary, our work takes on even greater meaning. We are grateful to everyone helping us preserve its past while ensuring that it remains vibrant, relevant and welcoming for generations to come.

**Thank you for being a Friend of Music Hall.**



**Peter Koenig**
President, Board of Directors



**Nancy Knauf**
Executive Director

FRIENDS *of* MUSIC HALL

## OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **213** FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL DONORS | NEARLY **5,000 PEOPLE** ENGAGED WITH TOURS, TALKS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING | **1,717** MIGHTY WURLITZER CONCERT GUESTS |
| **$272,600** CONTRIBUTED | **$1.225 MILLION** INVESTED IN MUSIC HALL ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING | **1,173** VOLUNTEER HOURS |



# ENGAGE

## MUSIC HALL'S STORIES EXTEND FAR BEYOND ITS STAGES.

Through tours, educational programs and community presentations, Friends of Music Hall helps people discover the architecture, history, people and events that have shaped this landmark for nearly 150 years.

### THIS YEAR AT MUSIC HALL

**1,083** INDOOR TOURS GUESTS

**1,154** PRIVATE TOURS GUESTS

**566** GHOST TOURS GUESTS

**410** HISTORY & HOPS BEER TOURS GUESTS

**429** MUSIC HALL EXPLORERS
**A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FOR GRADES 3-6**

**79** OUTDOOR ARCHITECTURE TOURS GUESTS

## TAKING THE STORY INTO THE COMMUNITY

Our speakers extended Music Hall's reach beyond its walls, engaging **927 community members through 12 presentations** at venues such as the City of Forest Park Senior Center, the Boone County Public Library, and the Fitton Center for Creative Arts.






## MAKING ACCESS POSSIBLE

A **$5,000 grant for Music Hall Explorers** is helping provide transportation for schools that otherwise may not be able to visit Music Hall.

Through August: **79 students** from Winton Hills Academy and Roberts Academy received transportation assistance to experience Music Hall.

# NEW STORIES. NEW AUDIENCES.

## FINDING NEW WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MUSIC HALL

### CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY



**311 students** participating in the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts visited Music Hall for a special educational experience.

Our ongoing partnership with the Black Family Reunion bus tour welcomed another **55 guests** to Music Hall, marking our third year of collaboration.

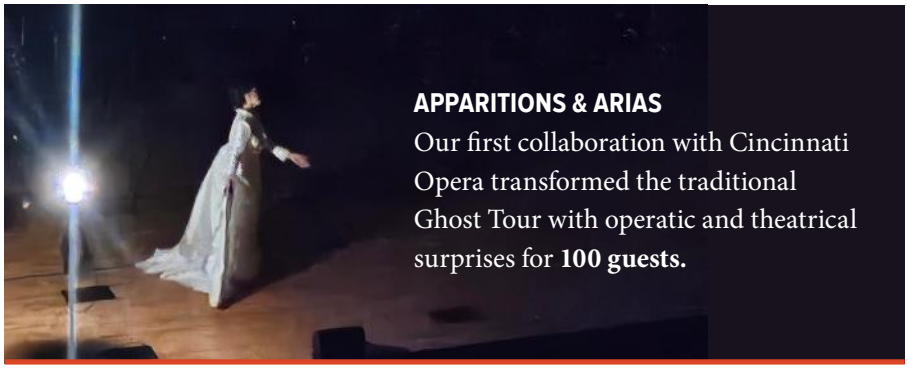


### UNDER ONE ROOF

Friends of Music Hall offered its first public **Under One Roof** tour exploring African American history at Music Hall, with promotional support from The Voice of Black Cincinnati.

The tour was also adapted for students from Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts, reaching **105 students in six visits in one day.**





### APPARITIONS & ARIAS

Our first collaboration with Cincinnati Opera transformed the traditional Ghost Tour with operatic and theatrical surprises for **100 guests.**

**MAY FESTIVAL MUSIC & HISTORY TOUR:** Our first tour created in partnership with May Festival explored the intertwined histories of the festival and Music Hall—and concluded with guests experiencing an opening-night rehearsal.



### VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Behind these experiences is a remarkable group of volunteers who give their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to Music Hall.

From leading tours and giving community talks to supporting children's programming, Wurlitzer concerts and outreach events, our volunteers are some of Music Hall's most passionate ambassadors.

| | |
|---|---|
| **1,173 HOURS** DONATED BY PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS | **23** AVERAGE ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS EACH MONTH |

**THANKS TO ALL OUR 2025-2026 VOLUNTEERS!** Ekkehard Bohme, Steve Carlson, Jennifer Claudy, Patti Cruse, Carol DeGreg, Feriel Feldman, Barbara Gomes, Ray Grothaus, Gayley Hautzenroeder, Ron Hoffman, Linda Kiefer, Carol Kruse, David Lane, Sandra Lett, Judy Martin, Denise McLinden, Becky Moeggenberg, Sue Monteith, Joyce Oehler, Lori Petranek, Dale Pepper, Tracy Price, Mike Ranieri, Lynne Reckman, Melanie Sandy, Jennifer Schlotman, Thea Tjepkema, Fred Warren, Michelle Weber, Rosanne Wetzel



**Julien Monick,** Tour and Administrative Coordinator



# CELEBRATE

## THE MIGHTY WURLITZER CONCERT SERIES ENTERTAINED NEARLY 2,000 GUESTS.

| COME TOGETHER LIVE: THE BEATLES' LEGACY / **660** | HAPPY HOLIDAYS / **603** | SILENT MOVIES MADE MUSICAL / **454** |
|---|---|---|

The Albee Mighty Wurlitzer has entertained audiences for nearly a century—and Friends of Music Hall is helping ensure its remarkable sound continues to fill the Music Hall Ballroom. From holiday favorites to silent film and the music of the Beatles, the Wurlitzer continues to show just how versatile—and beloved—this historic instrument remains.



### A FIRST FOR FUTURE FILMMAKERS

The 2026 Silent Movies concert also inspired a new way to engage young artists. Friends of Music Hall launched its **inaugural Student Silent Film Contest**, recognizing two student filmmakers during *The Mark of Zorro.*



### A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING

This year, Friends of Music Hall received a remarkable **$150,000 gift for maintenance of the Mighty Wurlitzer in memory of Ron Wehmeier.**

An additional **$2,850** was contributed in his memory.

### SHARING MUSIC HALL'S STORY

Friends of Music Hall worked with community and media partners throughout the year to introduce more people to our programs and mission.

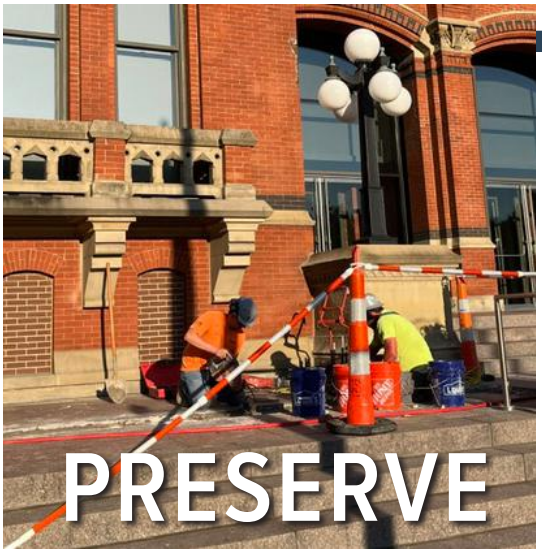
FOX19's **Kickin' It with Ken** featured both our Silent Movies event and an Indoor Tour of Music Hall, while our partnership with Cincinnati Arts Association expanded promotion of tours and Wurlitzer events through digital and social media.





Tiffany Cooper, Event Coordinator, Wurlitzer events.

**The more people who know Music Hall's story, the more people who can become part of its future.**




## $1.225 MILLION INVESTED IN MUSIC HALL'S HISTORIC FAÇADE

Preservation is at the heart of Friends of Music Hall's mission.

This year, that commitment could be seen in one of our most ambitious recent capital projects: new architectural lighting designed to illuminate and celebrate Music Hall's historic exterior.

Friends of Music Hall invested **$1.225 million in the design and construction of the new façade lighting**, highlighting the architecture and details that have made Music Hall one of Cincinnati's most recognizable landmarks.

The project represents more than new lights. It is an investment in how Cincinnati experiences Music Hall—and how this treasured building will present itself to the city for decades to come.

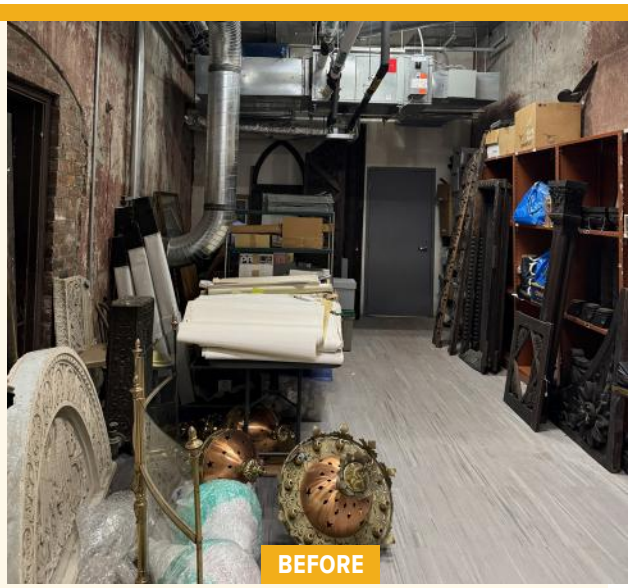
**Preservation allows history to remain part of our present.**

## PROTECTING MUSIC HALL'S STORIES, TOO

Preservation extends beyond bricks and mortar.

This year, Friends of Music Hall completed a dedicated **Archives Room**, creating an improved home for photographs, documents, artifacts and other materials that help tell Music Hall's remarkable story.

Our collection continues to grow, and we welcome historic materials that can help preserve that story for future generations.







# YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

### 213 DONORS. 1 SHARED COMMITMENT.

Everything in this report begins with people who believe Music Hall is worth preserving.

During FY 2025–26, 213 donors contributed $272,600 to Friends of Music Hall.

### A COMMUNITY THAT CONTINUES TO GROW

| |
|---|
| **70%** DONOR RENEWAL RATE |
| **33** NEW DONORS |
| **20** DONORS RETURNED AFTER LAST GIVING IN 2023 OR EARLIER |

Every gift—at every level—strengthens our ability to preserve Music Hall, share its stories and create opportunities for more people to experience it.

FRIENDS *of* MUSIC HALL

# FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL 2025-2026 MEMBERS

## CORBETT CIRCLE
**($10,000+)**

Holly Brians Ragusa
Mr. Charles N. Ellman
Ms. Carol Law
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Osborn

## ROSE WINDOW CIRCLE
**($5,000 to $9,999)**

Kenneth & Dawn Bertsche

## SPRINGER CIRCLE
**($1,000 - $4,999)**

Matthew Buck
Charles & Betty Ann Ellman
Kathleen M. Grote
Carol L. Kruse
Susan B. Lichtenbaum
Calvin & Patricia Linnemann
Phillip Long
Peter McConney
Mr. Glenn Plott
Lynne Williams Reckman
David & Priya Rolfes
Anonymous
Schlachter Family Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Irwin & Melinda Simon
Mr. Gerald Skidmore
Tim Smith & Penny Poirier
Clark Sole Jr.
Jay Edward Springer
Dudley Taft Charitable Foundation
Kathy Wade
Mark & Lisa Weadick
Robert & Marian Kennedy Charitable Trust
Peg & Jack Wyant

## HANNAFORD CIRCLE
**($500 - $999)**

Raye Allen
Patricia Beggs
Amy Boertlein
Jennifer Buchholz
Deborah W. Campbell
Cincinnati Stage Employees Local #5
Carol C. Cole
John Doellman
Ms. Ann A. Ellison
Feriel Feldman
Carol M. Fisher
Ashley L. Ford
Greg Hardman
Tom Hardy
Kelly Holtel
Dr. Eric Jackson
Jay & Shirley Joyce
Peter E. Koenig
Bet and Dave Koeninger
Ken & Emily Kreider
Andreas Lange
Quiera Levy Smith
Thomas J. & Adele G. Lippert Family Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Scott Nelson
Beth Palm
Rick Pender
Roxanne Qualls
Ed & Barb Rider
Mindy & Steve Rosen
Lisa and Schmitz Schmitz
Mr. Dale Swisher
Ralph Taylor
Andrew Ulmer
Nancy & Patty Wagner
Norman Weisbrodt
Jessy Williams

## WURLITZER CIRCLE
**($250 - $499)**

The Alpaugh Foundation
David & Elaine Billmire
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Jacklyn & Gary Bryson
Noé Cantú
Steve & Cookie Carlson
Mary & Tim Coyne
Meredith & Chuck Downton
Carl & Joyce Fischer
Meredith Gillespie
William E. Henrich
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Tricia and Eric Johnson
Susan and Roy Kulick
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David and Jan Lane
Smita Mehta
Mr. & Mrs. J. David Rosenberg
Mrs. Linda Siekmann
Dr. Susan R. Strick
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Kelley Brandstetter Tracy
Anonymous
Ray & Ellen Van der Horst
Cedric W. Vogel
Anonymous

## BLACK BRICK CIRCLE
**($100 - $249)**

Artmayer Family
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Donald Beck & Larry Enyon
Wilma & Herbert Beigel
Drs. Leslie & Carol Benet
Mrs. & Mr. Kathleen J. Bentley
Karen & Rick Blatt
Richard Bloss
Laurence & Hildy Bonhaus
William Brandt
Thomas G. Bruckmann
Don and Kathleen Burns
Sherry L. Caito
Christopher Canarie
Jennifer Claudy
Anthony F. Cole
Philip & Anne Cone
Dr. Robin T. Cotton
Dr. & Mrs. Alvin H. & Alva Jean Crawford
Anonymous
Carol DeGreg
Carmon DeLeone
Sally H. Dessauer
Jennifer Dibenedetto
Jean Z. Donaldson
Emilie/Dave Dressler
Harold K. & Linda W. Eberenz
Joe & Kathy Ganim
Joanne Grueter
Barbara and Jack A. Hahn
Dr. Kelly Hale
Andy & Barb Hauck
Philip & Gayley Hautzenroeder
Mr. Daniel J. Hoffheimer
Christine & Alan Hollatz
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kahsar
Cassandra Keller
Linda Kiefer
Nancy Knauf
Lee Koehler
Dennis Scott Koenig
Sandra C. Lett
C. Alek Lucke
Judy L. Martin
Mr. & Mrs. James McDermott
Don & Judy Mills
Susanne E. Monteith
Regeana & Al Morgan
Ms Vivian Morgan
Brad & Lisa Nogar
Kevin D. Ott
Yemi Oyediran
Donna Patterson
Carol & James Pearce
James Petera
Christopher Pinelo
Ronald Plybon
Nicole Roberts
Kim Allison Salit
Carol Sampson
Ann Santen
Chuck D Schmalz
Brian Siekmann
Murray Sinclaire
Betsy Sittenfeld
Betty Ann Smiddy
Lisa & Rob Smith
The Society of the Sisters of the Transfiguration
Marie Speziale
Joseph Eric Stevens
Blanche & Tim Sullivan
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James L. Thompson
Thea Tjepkema
Michael L. Walton Esq.
JoAnn Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick D. Warren
Mrs Katie N. Weed
Shelby Wood
John M. Yacher

## 1878 CIRCLE
**($50 to $99)**

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Theresa Anderson
Patricia Bittner
Ms. Erica Bock
Teri Boland
Paula Cox
Patti F. Cruse
Dr. Karen E. Dinsmore
Martha Ferrell
Alison Hansen
Grant Hart
Mary Healy
Ruth C. Holthaus
Carolyn Honkomp
Kathy Jenkins
Lorraine Johnson
Brenda A. Jones
Dennis Kelley II
Carol and Al Lloyd
Willy Loxterkamp
Joseph T. Luttmer D.D.S.
Bobbie A. Maybrier
Michael & Marjorie McKinney
Dr. Karen Meyers & Mr. William Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Nerl
Mrs. Sylvia Osterday
Scott Petranek
Judy Prinz
Kenneth Quinn
Sherry Roth
Kathleen Rotterman
Janet Rubleske
Stacy Sommer Schmidt
Eli Shupe & Toby Ruben
Leighann Sibal
Holly Spraul
Julia Stephen
Donna Steutermann
Paula Warnken
Jennifer Wehrmeyer
J. Miles Wolf
Emel Yakali
Linda Ziegler

**YOUR SUPPORT IS AN INVESTMENT IN MUSIC HALL'S FUTURE.**

# THE PEOPLE POWERING OUR OUR MISSION

Friends of Music Hall is powered by a hands-on Board of Directors, Advisory Council members, volunteers, donors and community partners who contribute their expertise, ideas, time and leadership throughout the year. Together, they turn our mission into action.

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Working together to preserve, improve, promote and provide education about Music Hall.**



**Front row (L to R):** Kenneth Kreider, Mark Weadick, Jennifer Buchholz, Peter Koenig, Lynne Reckman, Dr. Eric Jackson, Tricia Johnson, Kathy Wade. **Back row (L to R):** Tim Smith, Roxanne Qualls, Nancy Wagner, Chris Pinelo, Andreas Lange, Raye Allen, Glenn Plott, Kelly Holtel, Carol L. Sampson, Linda Kiefer, Thea Tjepkema, Erica Bock, Jessica Williams, Quiera Levy-Smith. **Not Pictured:** Patricia Beggs, Kyle Campbell, Meredith Gillespie, Ed Rider, Nicole Roberts and Yemi Oyediran.

# BUILDING THE NEXT CHAPTER

FRIENDS *of* MUSIC HALL

This year, Friends of Music Hall completed a three-year strategic planning process shaped by input from the people who know and care about this organization. **196 people** participated in our community survey with **16 key stakeholders** who contributed through individual interviews.

Building on this input, the Board of Directors, staff, and Advisory Council participated in an intensive workshop facilitated by a consultant from DBD Group to finalize the organization's 2026-2029 Road Map.

**PRESERVE** / Continue long-range planning and investment in the preservation, maintenance and improvement of Music Hall's historic assets.

**ENGAGE** / Build upon successful tours and educational programs while exploring new ways—including technology—to make Music Hall's history accessible to more people.

**WELCOME** / Reduce barriers, broaden participation and help ensure everyone who enters Music Hall feels a sense of belonging.

**TELL THE STORY** / Increase awareness of Friends of Music Hall and use Music Hall's upcoming 150th anniversary to share the building's extraordinary past, present and future with the broader community.

## 150 YEARS — AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

As Music Hall approaches its 150th anniversary, we are preparing special tours, digital history experiences, community programming and opportunities to celebrate the building that generations of Cincinnatians have called their own. Its next chapter will be written by all of us.

## BE A PART OF IT.

**GIVE** / Help preserve Music Hall for future generations.
**TOUR** / Discover the stories behind Cincinnati's most iconic landmark.
**VOLUNTEER** / Share your time and passion for Music Hall.
**JOIN** / Become a Friend of Music Hall and help shape what comes next.

**friendsofmusichall.org**

**PRESERVE. ENGAGE. CELEBRATE.** Together, we keep Music Hall's story alive.