

## Highlighting our Performing Arts Capital Projects



Since 2015 Cullen Foundation has awarded \$2.13 million in capital improvements to its Performing Arts grantees. Funded projects include lighting and sound systems, bricks and mortar, seating systems, paint, carpeting, stages, restroom rehabs, and more. These investments are central to fulfilling a significant part of our mission, that of advancing theatre and performing arts to positively impact residents of Erie County, New York.

Whether the first money in or the last, every dollar we invest in our performing arts grantees' capital and equipment needs leverages other funding sources and enables our nonprofit partners the opportunity to enrich and entertain audiences with public performances of theatre, opera, music, chorus, and dance.

A sample of investments follows but know there are more investments in our local performing arts spaces in the works!

### Shakespeare in Delaware Park



*What were some of the most frequent positive comments you heard this summer from patrons about your new site amenities?*

**Sean Crawford | Program Director:**

"Our on-site enhancements have meant greater access to free Shakespeare for seniors and low mobility audience members. From a recent attendee, "Thank you for the actions you have taken to accommodate the needs of senior Shakespeare lovers. We're 76 and 81 and think we'll be able to come for another 10 years - we've been coming since 1976!"

### Springville Center for the Arts



*Your completed Arts Cafe on Springville's Main Street has unique/intimate performance space, how's that being received by the Cafe's customers and arts enthusiasts?*

**Seth Wochensky | Executive Director:**

"The Cafe was conceived as a complement to our more formal sanctuary performance space. It's pedestrian-level. You enter without much of a commitment. You might come for a cup of coffee and stumble on a performance...but then you get hooked.

It's been thrilling to see how new people have come into the fold and have started attending performances. We've had a blend of informal programs such as lunch concerts, open mics, and folk nights as well as ticketed theater productions and concerts.

The community response has been pure excitement and wonder."

### Kleinhans Music Hall



*You have an ambitious capital improvement plan unfolding with some "infrastructure" projects complete, others underway, and many more components still in the fundraising stage. How do you plan for and fundraise for such a large and monumental undertaking?*

**Luke Borkowski | Program Director:**

"Kleinhans Music Hall is in the midst of the largest improvement project in its 83-year history to preserve Buffalo's beloved Cultural Landmark for generations to come. Replacement of the roof is underway, and numerous projects – spanning from repairs to nearly every infrastructure system, to the restoration of its iconic zebra-wood, reflecting pool, and other architectural finishes – will continue in 2023.

*Keeping it Modern: The Community Campaign for Kleinhans* is a \$21 Million joint venture between the public and private sectors, with funding already secured from New York State, the City of Buffalo, Erie County, foundation grants, and numerous private donations."

### Shea's 710 Theatre



*There are new seats, carpet, interior paint, assisted listening devices and sound booth at 710 Main Street - how are these improvements being received by your patrons?*

**John Schaller | Director of Development:**

"Shea's welcomed patrons into the newly renovated 710 Theatre for the first time for their August 28th Gala and for a three-week run of "Once on this Island" on September 15th. Thanks to the generosity of the Cullen Foundation, guests enjoyed a brand new experience inside the Theatre that included state-of-the-art stage lighting and sound, brand new carpeting and upgraded seating equipped with cupholders, and new safety features including floor and stair lighting. And while it's early, patrons that go as far back to the original Studio Arena days have commented on how much more enjoyable their theatre experience has been in the newly renovated space."

### Kenan Center, Inc.



*What enhancements will audiences recent enjoy as a result of the Taylor Theater's upgrades?*

**Susan Przybyl | Executive Director:**

"Attendees visiting the Kenan Center's Taylor Theater in Lockport, NY will enjoy our new LED lighting system that offers high pigmentation lighting, our new high quality surround sound system, as well as new carpets and accessible seating."

### Buffalo Suzuki Strings, Inc.



*How do your building's upgrades improve your space's accessibility and your earned revenue opportunities?*

**Lauren Eastlack | Co-Executive Director:**

"The addition of the ADA-accessible restrooms at Buffalo Suzuki Strings (BSS) Musical Arts Center gives us the ability to offer access to our building without restrictions. We are thrilled to now be able to provide for any person that attends a music lesson, concert, or event at BSS. Now that we have the ADA-accessible restrooms we have the potential for increased revenue through the opportunity of renting our building."