



# ALL-OF-US EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

## 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEASON 29



## YOUTH CREATING QUALITY THEATER

**Vision:** The Vision of AECT is a community that values youth creating art for the benefit of all.

**Mission:** This vision is accomplished by offering young people of all backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles the opportunity to produce professional quality plays, study many aspects of the dramatic arts, and develop valuable life skills while providing outstanding entertainment to the community.

**Anti-Discrimination Policy:** All-of-us Express Children Theatre is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and an equal opportunity employer providing programs and services without regard to age, color, creed, gender identity, disability, height, membership in any labor organization, national origin, parental status, political identification, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or weight.

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## Numbers Served in 2017-2018

Total Show Attendance: 4,651 community members

Studio Class Performance Attendance: 85 community members

Drama Camp Attendance: 260 youth

Total Cast Participation: 133 youth

Crew Participation: 289 youth

First Time Participation With AECT: 192 youth

Memberships: 86 lifetime, family and supporting members

# LETTER FROM THE AECT NONPROFIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

The theme of the 29<sup>th</sup> Season was A World of Pure Imagination. Our four main stage shows reflected that theme perfectly. In addition to imagination we explored the themes of heartache, loyalty and self-control. We experienced old fairy tales, classic stories of love and loss and amazing musicals! What a rollercoaster of emotions!

Once again, I would like to thank our dedicated board, loyal membership, talented youth, committed City of East Lansing staff, community partners and generous supporters. Without all of you this theatre program would not be possible.

The AECT mission continues to be our driving force. Our AECT board has worked diligently this season to meet our budget goals while striving to provide life changing learning experience for our youth.

Completion of the renegotiated AECT/COEL agreement is on the horizon. The process has taken longer than expected but the results will strengthen the relationship and allow the collaboration to continue for years to come.

Being both the board president and an AECT parent has given me a unique perspective on this amazing children's theatre. It has been a bittersweet year as my oldest daughter graduated from high school and thus completed her time with AECT. This theatre has been a huge part of her childhood and has had a large role in molding who she has become as an adult. This program has instilled responsibility, confidence, compassion, organization and team work in her. These life skills will truly benefit her as she embarks on her future. It is my hope that every child who participates with AECT comes away with a positive life shaping experience. The opportunity to learn life skills in a theatre atmosphere while having a great time is what makes this theatre unique and amazing!

I am looking forward to another year of wonderful theatre, engaging collaborations, and learning opportunities for both youth and adults involved with AECT!

~Katie Brewer, President, All-of-us Express Children's Theatre



## 2017-2018 SEASON PRODUCTIONS: In a World of Pure Imagination

Ideally each season productions are chosen by a committee of board members, parents, and youth who read and discuss scripts and select potential shows meeting established criteria, including cast size; potential to attract larger, non-traditional audiences; subject matter suitability; and artistic challenge to participants. Collaborating artists become involved in project planning at pre-production meetings that articulate the director's vision, goals and projects for each production.

Unless noted otherwise, productions are staged at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center Alfred A. White Performing Arts Theater, which features a proscenium style stage. Cast and crew rehearsals also are held at Hannah Community Center.

### ***The Never Ending Story***

November 3-5 and 10-12, 2017; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing  
Directed by Dale Williams



### ***Bridge to Terabithia- Collaboration with Riverwalk Theatre***

February 9-11 and 16-18, 2018; Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing  
Directed by Shannon Bowen

This show was held at Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing, Michigan. This popular downtown Lansing theater features a thrust stage, providing young actors and actresses the opportunity and challenge of plying their craft on a different type of stage than Hannah Community Center provides.



## ***Beauty and the Beast***

April 27-29 and May 4-6, 2018; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing  
Directed by Amelia Rogocka



## ***Willy Wonka Jr.***

July 27-29 and August 3-5, 2017; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing  
Directed by Rick Dethlefsen



*Show photos courtesy Teriah Fleming (Teriah Nicole Artistry)*

## **SCHOOL SHOWS**

AECT offers one school show for each production to enhance field trip opportunities in the arts for local schools, daycares, preschools, and community groups. The AECT Artistic Director prepares and provides curriculum guides to the groups, to increase the learning potential. After each school show AECT also offers a “talk back” opportunity where the audience asks questions of the cast and crew. This season we had 404 in attendance at the school shows.

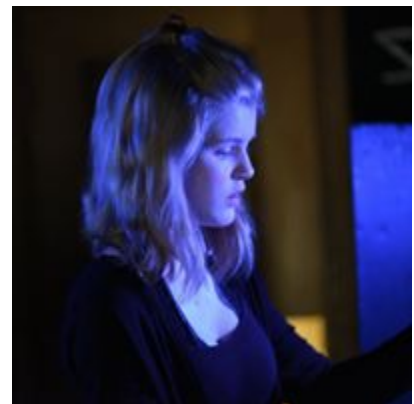
## Studio Class

In May 2018, AECT Studio Class performed Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. This was a special class focused on character work and analyzing different media forms of a story. The youth helped guide rehearsals and character development sessions. The studio class gave the young actors the platform to take risks and engage in powerful experiences in the theater.



## GUILD PROGRAM

AECT's unique Guild program is rewarding for our youth participants while they are involved with the theatre and beyond. It affords youth the opportunity to learn and excel at backstage crafts. Adult Guild supervisors' mentor young people through the sequential stages of learning each of the non-acting areas of stagecraft, including Director, Management, Set Construction, Props, Costumes, Makeup, and Tech (sound and lights) Guilds. Youth that work and learn on the guild crews experience a sense of accomplishment, increased self-esteem and gain appreciation for all aspects of theatre while having fun. Seeing what they helped to create on stage is very rewarding and many come to love the backstage work and want to be involved with it again. The real-life skills participants learn through this process have practical applications outside the world of theater also. Carpentry, sewing, project planning and management, teamwork, mentoring, design aesthetics, problem-solving, time management, and financial budgeting are some of the many skills they learn and practice on a guild crew. The Guild program has recently been updated and a new Guild book should be available soon.



## **CLASSES/WORKSHOPS/DRAMA CAMP/LESSONS**

AECT continues to offer Drama Camps during the summer for ages 6 through 15. Drama Camp consists of 5 days of dramatic instruction and culminates in a performance for family and friends on the last day. AECT offers both one-week and two-week camps as options for parents/caregivers. The two-week camp is a more in-depth study of theater and may include musical content depending on the weekly theme.

Assistant Artistic Director Amelia Rogocka continues to offer acting lessons. Youth ages 9 – 18 had the opportunity to work one-on-one with a professional actress and experienced director. They will be taught the basics of acting and how to prepare for an audition.

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The AECT Board continues to administer the scholarship program. Funds raised by the AECT Board allow us to provide scholarships for cast and crew fees to families who complete an application and claim need. Seventeen youth received cast/crew scholarships.

## AECT NONPROFIT STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2017-JUNE 30, 2018

Budget Description	Actual
<b>Revenue</b>	
Donations	\$ 2,405.76
Grants	14,030.00
Memberships	3,720.50
Sponsorships	500.00
Fundraising	3,229.61
Donations in Kind	6,500.00
Other	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 30,385.87</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Accounting	\$ 2,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 1,807.06
Finance Charges	
Grant Writing	1,000.00
Operations	1,873.14
Outreach	14.28
Printing	2,500.00
Production City	16,853.00
Scholarships	412.50
Webmaster Services	1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,445.70</b>
<b>Net Revenue (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,940.17</b>

The AECT nonprofit board raises funds through grants, sponsorships, fundraising, donations, concessions, and memberships. Concessions was added this year during *Willy Wonka* as a revenue generating activity for the board. Next year the board will coordinate concessions for all four shows.

The nonprofit board is proud to announce that the membership voted to align the fiscal year of the nonprofit with the City of East Lansing. As a result, our fiscal year was shortened for one year. This gave less time for the nonprofit to generate revenue as planned in all revenue generating activities. Our new fiscal year began July 1, 2018 and will end on June 30, 2019.

The nonprofit contributed \$16,853 for the operation of the program to cover expenses including but not limited to: theater and rehearsal space fees at the Hannah Community Center, part of the artistic director and theater aide salaries, crew head stipends, printing costs, show supplies (costumes, props, sets, make-up, tech), publicity, play scripts and royalties. In July, the nonprofit contributed an additional \$15,147 to the City keeping the commitment to contribute \$32,000 for the operation of the program.

At the end of our new fiscal year, June 31, 2018, the AECT nonprofit headed into fiscal year 2018-2019 with a bank account balance of \$31,371.96.



## 2017-2018 AECT NONPROFIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The AECT Nonprofit is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. All Board officers and members are elected at the annual membership meeting held each September. The Board also consists of voting and non-voting youth members whose input is highly valued, and which offers valuable experience. Every Board member also serves on at least one committee.

### **Officers:**

President: Katie Brewer  
Vice-President: Adrienne Yates  
Secretary: Todd Vanderbur  
Treasurer: Cynthia Wright-Pratt

### **Trustees:**

Shannon Bowen  
Sara Frank-Hepfer  
Morgan Pohl  
Dayna Smith  
Andy Callis  
Andy Bowen  
Shelby Brewer – Voting Youth Member\*  
Audrey Tieman-- Voting Youth Member\*  
Addy Vanderbur—Non-Voting Youth Member\*

Individuals who served partial terms this year:

Christine Fisk  
Jeff D'Valentine  
Adam Denton  
Ellison Winterstein -- Voting Youth Member\*

\*The AECT Bylaws provide for voting youth members age 16 or 17, as well as an honorary non-voting youth member age 15

## CITY OF EAST LANSING DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS – AECT PROGRAM STAFF

Department Director: Timothy McCaffrey  
AECT Program Coordinator: Kathleen Miller  
AECT Artistic Director: Elizabeth Cooke  
AECT Theater Aide: Amelia Rogocka

## THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON GRANTORS AND DONORS

The value of donors and grantors to the All-of-us Express Children's Theatre cannot be overstated. Their support is vital to the continued success of AECT, and we extend to them a heartfelt "thank you" for being our partners in providing quality theater to the community.

### **Grants Awarded:**

Arts Council of Greater Lansing  
Capital Regional Community Foundation  
Ingham County Hotel/Motel Fund  
East Lansing Arts Commission  
Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs

### **Sponsorships:**

MSU Federal Credit Union

### **Donors:**

Anonymous  
Dorothy Wright  
Accenture Your Cause, LLC  
Dana Vigés  
Paul Carlson  
Delta Dental  
James Powers  
Feelgood Tap  
Accentrue  
Whole Foods  
Jackson National Life Insurance Company

# MEMBERSHIP

## Lifetime Members

The Bass-Pohl Family  
The Brewer Family  
The Campbell-Enger Family  
Ainsley Coty  
The Coy Family  
The Darnell Family  
The Dolan Family  
The Downs Family  
The Dreger-Sousa Family  
Michael & Mian Fisher  
The Fisk Family  
The Fitschen-Brown Family  
The Gisholt Family  
The Hay Family  
Paul & Judy Hershkowitz  
The Ives-Johnson Family  
The Lees Family  
Neysa McGarrity  
Tom Meyer & Susan Ahrens  
The Nash Family  
Marsha Parrot-Boyle  
The Polinovasteiner Family  
The Reed Family  
Danielle Robinson  
The Schlinger & Gerry Family  
The Shaw Family  
The Sigworth Family  
The Ericka Smith Family  
The Stamford Family  
Will Tieman & Wendy Hart-Tieman Family  
Dorinda & Gary VanKempen  
Eileen Walters  
Evelyn Weymouth  
The Yates Family

## Supporting Members:

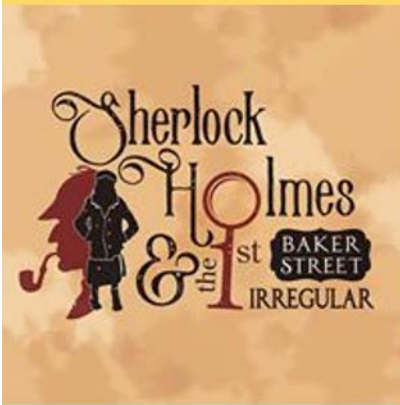
Andrew P. Callis  
Sara Frank-Hepfer  
Cynthia Wright-Pratt

## Family Members

The Anderson/Duffeimerer Family  
The Baer Family  
The Bartlett/Jones Family  
The Baumann Family  
The Becktel Family  
The Biddington Family  
The Boyan Family  
Elizabeth Brown & Family  
The Canfield Family  
The Colony Family  
The Cooper Family  
The Cosner/Almanza Family  
The Del Rio Family  
The DeRosia-Forman Family  
Gabriel D'Valentine  
The Dymond Family  
The Elliott Family  
The Frost Family  
The Gates Family  
The Greenway Family  
The Groden-Pager Family  
The Hatfield-Thornburg Family  
The Hawthorne Family  
The Hoagland Family  
The Hogle/Winterstein Family  
The Hunt Family  
Carmede Jackson  
The Jarvi Family  
The Jenkins Family  
The Kanaby Family  
The Leinbach Family  
The Martinez Family  
The McDaniel Family  
The Moore Family  
The Mullins Family  
The Nawyn-Hellingas Family  
The Prush Family  
The Repins Family  
The Ringlever Family  
The Shangraw Family  
The Sibergleid Family  
The Stanley Family  
The Traven-Schenkers Family  
The Unruh Family  
The Vanderbur Family  
The VanDerHeide Family  
The Venegas/Romero Family  
The Washington Family  
The Winnie/Lapidus Family

**2018-2019 SEASON PRODUCTIONS:  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

**2018-2019 Season Productions  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**





## All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

### **Nonprofit:**

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East Lansing Michigan 48826  
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[www.allofusexpress.org](http://www.allofusexpress.org)

Facebook search All-of-us Express  
Twitter @AllofusExpress  
Instagram @AllofusExpress

### **City of East Lansing AECT Program:**

Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbott Road  
East Lansing Michigan 48823  
517-333-2580  
[www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus)