

**WE** exhilarating  
**ARE** provocative  
**CHICAGO** visceral  
**THEATRE.** real  
brave  
welcoming  
awe inspiring

# BY THE NUMBERS

\$232,000

granted by the League through grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and ComEd

44,000

theatre guides distributed

83,000

Hot Tix sold

1100

artists and administrators served through professional development events

12,500

tickets sold for the 6th Annual Theatre Week

\$685,000

co-op advertising dollars spent by 103 theatres

1,200

Chicago area high school students participated in the August Wilson Monologue Competition

230

member theatres

# DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the League of Chicago Theatres' annual report. 2017-2018 has been a banner year for the League. As you can see in the box to the right, we expanded our work to include initiatives that address the inequities in Chicago theatre through training that examines the past and imagines a future that is equitable and inclusive. We received a grant from ComEd (renewed for 2019) that provided much needed support to organizations wishing to reach underserved audiences and we created a new website for Hot Tix making it easier for theatres to put shows on Hot Tix and for users to navigate.

This year, The league completed our first strategic plan in 10 years. It took the entire year because we wanted to engage our membership fully and we wanted to make sure that we would have something that would guide us through the next few years with a deep sense of purpose. We think we have achieved those goals. If you would like to see the strategic plan, you will find it at [leagueofchicagotheatres.org](http://leagueofchicagotheatres.org) under the resources tab.

You will see throughout this report that our work promoting and supporting Chicago theatre, providing valuable professional development and advocating for our theatres continues, and our mission remains:

*Theatre is essential to the life of a great city and to its citizens. The League of Chicago Theatres is an alliance of theatres, which leverages its collective strength to support, promote and advocate for Chicago's theatre industry. Through our work, we ensure that theatre continues to thrive in our city.*

We are immensely grateful to everyone who makes this work possible, to all of our constituents, our theatres who put the faith in us to do this work and to you for taking the time to have a look at our report.

Most sincerely,

Deb Clapp  
Executive Director



## NEW THIS YEAR

### Hot Tix Website

We launched our user-friendly e-commerce site. New users are up 18% over the previous year.

### Anti-Racism Training

50 participants trained in the first ever training of this kind, specifically for Chicago theatres.

### ComEd Grants

ComEd provided \$120,000 in new grants for reaching underserved audiences and were granted through the League.

### LOCT Strategic Plan

We completed the first plan in 10 years.

# WE ARE WELCOMING

Throughout the year the League works to engage audiences across the city to provide information and access.



## CHICAGO THEATRE WEEK

12,500 tickets were sold to 115 participating shows during our 6th Annual Chicago Theatre Week.

## CITY FESTIVALS

The League participates in festivals throughout Chicago including Andersonville Arts Fest, Square Roots, Christkindlmarket and Hyde Park Jazz Festival

*"We could not have gone to all three plays without the reduced ticket price. Thank you for helping us enjoy the art of theater."*



## ENGAGING COLLEGE STUDENTS

Smartix offers free theatre tickets to college students. We sent 50 offers to 2,542 subscribers.



## HOT TIX

For forty years, Hot Tix has been the flagship service of the League, providing audiences with a low priced option to see theatre and a place where theatres can reach new theatre-goers.

*"Chicago Theatre Week was amazing! There is so much fabulous theatre in Chicago and this makes it accessible for all of us."*



Midsommer Flight performs at Christkindlmarket



Hot Tix theatre genius Damian White at the Argyle Night Market



# WE ARE AWE INSPIRING

Engaging with our community in ways large and small, the League works to involve all Chicagoans in theatre.

## 9TH ANNUAL AUGUST WILSON MONOLOGUE COMPETITION

1200 students from across the city participate in programs that introduce them to one of the greatest American playwrights.



Chicago finalists Nia Safro, Chisom Chima and Evan Simpson



Victor Musini performing his Monologue at the August Wilson Monologue Competition

## STRATEGIC PLANNING ENGAGEMENT

We worked with our community throughout the year, holding focus groups and fielding surveys to craft a strategic plan representative of their needs and vision for the future of Chicago theatre.

## ANNUAL LEAGUE GALA

Our gala raised \$72,000 for League operations this year. It was a wonderful evening honoring Steve Scott, Dorothy Milne, Amina Dickerson and emerging theatre Broken Nose Theatre. Chicago legend E. Faye Butler entertained the capacity crowd.



Ted Hoerl, E. Faye Butler and Steve Scott at the League gala



## CHICAGO GREEN THEATRE ALLIANCE

Continuing the work of making Chicago theatre more green, the alliance collected 1.2 tons of ewaste and an equal amount of textiles to be recycled.

# WE ARE BRAVE

Professional Development programs provide valuable tools and resources to our members as well as opportunities to build community.

## **WORKSHOPS** **ANTI-RACISM TRAINING**

This year we began the ongoing work of providing our members with the tools to combat racism in their lives and their institutions.

## **EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR THEATRE LEADERS**

Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, this popular workshop helps theatre leaders acquire new management skills and strategies.

## **NETWORKING** **INTERN NETWORKING**

Interns from across the city come together for an evening of networking with their peers and learning from working professionals.

## **MEET THE FUNDERS**

This opportunity gives development professionals and theatre leaders a chance to learn directly from funders about what makes a great partnership.

## **MARKETING AND MARGARITAS**

Marketing directors come together for a fun evening of networking and a lively exchange of ideas.



Effective Management Strategies for Theatre Leaders



Marketing and Margaritas



Intern Networking

*“Thank you for facilitating this event.  
Workshops like this bring us together  
and strengthen our community.”  
—Erasing Racism Workshop Attendee*

# WE ARE THANKFUL

Our many generous donors make our work possible; we are tremendously grateful to them. Our gratitude also goes to our trustees, who lead our community, and our staff, who push the League forward every day.

## FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Allstate Insurance  
Alphawood Foundation  
Arts Work Fund  
Chicago Community Trust  
CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago  
ComEd  
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation  
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
Illinois Arts Council  
MacArthur Fund at Prince  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Prince Charitable Trusts  
The Shubert Foundation

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nathan Allen  
The House Theatre of Chicago  
Brittany Barnes  
Chicago Architecture Foundation  
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Lifeline Theatre  
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Victory Gardens Theater  
Jonathan L. Green  
Sideshow Theatre Company  
Lisa Naparstek Green  
Iceberg Enterprises  
Peter Handler  
Beth Kaskel  
Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University  
Rachel Kraft  
Eileen LaCario  
Broadway In Chicago  
Jana Liles  
Victory Gardens Theater  
Kate Lipuma  
Writers Theatre  
Susan Padveen  
Columbia College Chicago  
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Goodman Theatre  
Stephanie Shum  
The New Colony  
Regina Taylor  
Goodman Theatre  
Heidi Thompson Saunders  
*Board Vice Chair*  
Court Theatre  
Ivan Vega  
UrbanTheater Chicago  
Wendy Whiteside  
American Blues Theater  
Chay Yew  
Victory Gardens Theater

## STAFF

### League Staff

Julia Acquistapace (intern)  
Adia Alli  
Kelsee Avery (intern)  
Joanne Cascone  
Deborah Clapp  
Jacob Fruend  
Lucas Garcia  
Brittney Symone Grant (intern)  
Mark Kozy  
Laura Nair  
Kristin Ross  
Daina Sauls  
Mariah Schultz (intern)  
Benjamin Thiem

### Hot Tix Staff

Timothy Bertucci  
Mykele Callicutt  
Max Colvill  
Emily Dillard  
Fernanado Fernandez  
Alexander Kempself  
Emily Lowney  
Joey Lubelfeld  
Meghan McGuire  
Emilie Modaff  
Andrew Monson  
Julia Rohed  
Ryan Wenzel  
Damian White



# WE ARE CHICAGO THEATRE

## MEMBER LIST

(re)discover theatre	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	International Voices Project	Promethean Theatre Ensemble	The Factory Theater
16th Street Theater	Chicago Theater Works	Interrobang Theatre Project	Prop Thtr	The Gift Theatre
20% Theatre Company Chicago	Chicago Theatre Workshop	iO Theater	Rasaka Theatre	The House Theatre of Chicago
2nd Act Players	Chopin Theatre	Jackalope Theatre Company	Raven Theatre Company	The Joffrey Ballet
A Red Orchid Theatre	Citadel Theatre Company	Jam Theatricals	Red Tape Theatre Company	The Mercury Theater
About Face Theatre	City Lit Theater Company	James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts	Red Theater Chicago	The Neo-Futurists
Actors Gymnasium	Collaboraction	Jedlicka Performing Arts Center	Redtwist Theatre	The New Colony
Adventure Stage Chicago	Compass Creative Dramatics	Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee	Refuge Theatre Project	The Plagiarists
Aguijon Theater Company	Corn Productions at Cornservatory	Kokandy Productions	Rembrandt Chamber Musicians	The Revival
Akvavit Theatre	Court Theatre	Lifeline Theatre	Remy Bumppo Theatre Company	The Rising Stars Theatre Co.
American Blues Theater	Definition Theatre	Links Hall	Rivendell Theatre Ensemble	The Second City
Annoyance Theatre	DePaul School of Music	Lira Ensemble	Royal George Theatre Center	the side project
Apollo Theater	Dominican University Performing Arts	Lookingglass Theatre Company	Saint Sebastian Players	The Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts
Artemisia, A Chicago Theatre	Drury Lane Theatre	Lyric Opera of Chicago	Saltbox Theatre Collective	The Theatre School at DePaul University
AstonRep Theatre Company	Eclipse Theatre Company	MadKap Productions	Shattered Globe Theatre	Theater on the Lake: The Chicago Summer Theater Festival
Athenaeum Theatre	Emerald City Theatre	Marriott Theatre	ShawChicago	Theater Oobleck
Babes With Blades Theatre Company	Erasing the Distance	MCA Stage	Sideshow Theatre Company	Theater Wit
Barrel of Monkeys	Facility Theatre	McAninch Arts Center	Silk Road Rising	Theatre Above The Law
Belmont Theater District	FAM Entertainment Theater Company	Metropolis Performing Arts Centre	Skokie Park District Devonshire Playhouse	Theatre Y
Beverly Theatre Guild	Filament Theatre	Midsommer Flight	SoloChicago Theatre Company	Theatre-Hikes(R)
Bienen School of Music	First Floor Theater	Mudlark Theater Company	Something Marvelous	Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre
Black Button Eyes Productions	First Folio Theatre	Music Theater Works	STAGE	Three Brothers Theatre
Black Ensemble Theater	Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre	Newhart Family Theatre	Stage 773	TimeLine Theatre Company
Blair Thomas & Co	Free Street Theater	North Central College Fine and Performing Arts	Stage Left Theatre	Trap Door Theatre
Blue Man Group	Fremont Street Theater Company	North Shore Center For The Performing Arts	Steep Theatre Company	UIC Theatre
Bluebird Arts	Getz Theatre Center at Columbia College Chicago	Northlight Theatre	Steppenwolf Theatre Company	Underscore Theatre Company
BoHo Theatre	Ghostlight Ensemble Theatre Company	Nothing Without a Company	Strawdog Theatre Company	UrbanTheater Company
BrightSide Theatre	Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company	Nuns4Fun Entertainment	Teatro Vista	Victory Gardens Theater
Broadway In Chicago	Goodman Theatre	Oak Park Festival Theatre	The Abrams Group, LLC & Kicky Productions	Waltzing Mechanics
Broken Nose Theatre	Grant Park Music Festival	Oakton Community College Performing Arts Center	The Agency Theater Collective	Water People Theater
Brown Paper Box Co.	Greenhouse Theater Center	Oil Lamp Theater	The Artistic Home	Waterfront Cafe & Summer Stages
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble	Griffin Theatre Company	Organic Theater Company	The Auditorium Theatre	What's Cookin' LLC
Chicago Children's Theatre	Harold Washington Cultural Center	Paramount Theatre	The Chicago Theatre	Williams Street Repertory
Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble	Harris Theater for Music and Dance	Pegasus Theatre Chicago	The Commission Theatre Co.	Wilmette Children's Theatre
Chicago Dramatists	Haven Theatre Company	Petite Opera Productions	The Comrades	Windy City Playhouse
Chicago Heights Drama Group	Hell in a Handbag Productions	Piven Theatre Workshop	The Conspirators	Wirtz Center at Northwestern University
Chicago Humanities Festival	Her Story Theater	Pivot Arts	The Cuckoo's Theater Project	Writers Theatre
Chicago Latino Theater Alliance	Idle Muse Theatre Company	Porchlight Music Theatre	The Degenerates	
Chicago Opera Theater		Pride Films and Plays	The Den Theatre	
Chicago Shakespeare Theater				