

2022-2023 Annual Report



Pink Umbrella Theater Company
Milwaukee, WI





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About Pink Umbrella

Pink Umbrella Theater, founded in September 2018, is proud to be the first professional theater company in Milwaukee with a focus on hiring Disabled Actors and Artists. Actors and Artists who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability are welcome and together, we create a space that is inclusive and accessible for all.

We hold performances, workshops, consultations, theater classes for ages four through adult, and professional development sessions year round, virtually and in-person. Our partnerships with community organizations are key and allow us to spread the love of theater and the arts, and create a more inclusive Milwaukee.

Together, we create, cultivate, and use our voice to better advocate for ourselves and others like us in the community. More importantly, it is our goal to grow to a point where we are completely staffed and run by people with disabilities. Their potential to impact the performing arts is endless.

Whether you are new to the Umbrella, or have been with us since the beginning, there is always a place for you here.





Mission and Vision

Mission

- Pink Umbrella Theater Company's mission is to provide and promote inclusive and accessible theatrical experiences for people who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability. Overarching goals for classes and workshops are to build community, encourage empathy, and strengthen imagination. Participants engage in theater exercises utilizing all five senses.
- Pink Umbrella Theater Company is dedicated to providing a platform to amplify the voices of Disabled Artists ages four through adult.

Vision

- We are driven by the desire to change the narrative by changing the narrator. We set out to amplify that theater arts need to be accessible and inclusive for all. We honor, uplift, and support our participants, actively building inclusivity in our city. We are committed to listening to and learning from our community to ensure that needs are met, and we continue to create spaces that allow the best of our selves to be brought to the classroom and stage.

Director's Letter



KATIE CUMMINGS
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear All,

As I reflect on the 2022-2023 season the word that comes to mind is...COMMUNITY!

Throughout this annual report you will see the results of this community coming together time and time again.

Pink Umbrella's company members performed SHINE! at Summerfest and then went on to produce BIGGER TOP and BIT(h) - Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts.

The greater Milwaukee Theater and Arts community provided more and more sensory friendly opportunities and we were there to provide workshops and guidance along the way.

Through Porch Play classes we were able to reach over 50 young people and their families, as Betty Brinn, ALAS, and St. Francis Children's Center welcomed us with open arms.

Sunshade (formerly known as TAID - Teaching Artists that Identify with a Disability) opened their virtual door to all Disabled Actors and Artists and increased their membership by 50%.

The community at Pink Umbrella Theater came together to raise funds for Giving Tuesday, Em's Ensemble Scholarship and our annual campaign, matched by the Silverstein Family Foundation.

The teaching and administrative community came together to ensure that all operations were full steam ahead for 365 days this year.

Every one of you who resides under the umbrella from time to time create this thriving community and the other word that comes to mind upon reflection is GRATITUDE!

Humbly,
kc

Year in Review



This past year has been a rollercoaster ride - but we wouldn't have it any other way! We couldn't fit everything we did here, but here are some of our favorites! Thank you to all our community partners, staff, families, volunteers, and everyone Under the Umbrella for all you do.

July: As awareness for accessible theater grows, we were brought in to train the staff and performers of KIDS from Wisconsin for their Sensory Friendly Performance.

February: Milwaukee Rep held a sensory-friendly show of "Much Ado About Nothing", their first ever! Pink Umbrella provided training and day-of support.

August: BIGGER TOP brought the circus to town this summer. This show was written specifically for our company members and delighted young and old alike.

March: Our 3rd annual Poetry Slam Fundraiser for Em's Ensemble happened! Thank you to the 18 poets & performers who shared their talents with a full house.

April: The return of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's "Spring Break Sensory-Friendly Concert"!! We were thrilled to support MSO staff, musicians, and patrons once again.

May: Founder & Executive Director Katie and Teaching Artist & Director Molly attended TYA/USA's national conference! They also presented on including Disability in Program Design.

April: As part of World Premiere Wisconsin, Pink staged a reading of a new play "BiTh - Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts" by John Van Slyke.

June: Pink held our 2nd annual Tea Party Fundraiser at the Bavarian Bierhaus and raised over \$40,000! We celebrated a fantastic year with good food, theater, and friends.

Voice, Body, and Imagination



A Porch Play session in action, March 2023

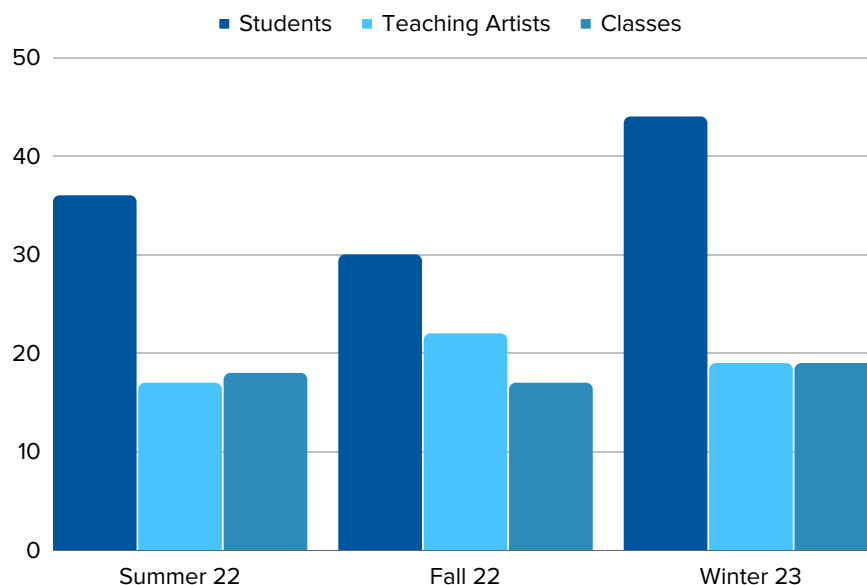
We continued to hold classes both in-person and virtually. We were also able to partner with a number of schools and community organizations to continue to share accessible theater with the greater Milwaukee area!

We also launched our Porch Play program! Porch Plays are a sensory-immersive, at-home theater experience that brings a classic story alive for families and small groups.

20 Porch Plays

Class Statistics '22-'23

We had a total of 63 students attend 54 classes, taught by 33 Teaching Artists. We had a blast both online and in-person, with new students and returning ones! Thank you to our Teaching Artists and Staff who help us bring the magic of theater to life, and to you all for joining us on so many adventures! Summer 2023 classes are in full swing, and we are already preparing for Fall 2023. We can't wait to watch our students continue to grow and thrive!



Lights, Camera, Action!

16 Actors

This year, we had three performances: SHINE! Remount, Bigger Top, and BITH - Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts. All three were in-person!

15 Crew

We were thrilled to perform at Summerfest in July with a remount of SHINE!, which also included an encore performance in August. This movement piece tells the story of six people coming out of the COVID-19 quarantine to reimmerge themselves into the community.

301 Audience Members

Summer 2022 ended at the circus with "Bigger Top"! We took viewers on a sensory-immersive journey through advocacy, understanding and acceptance under the Big Top.

As part of World Premiere Wisconsin, Pink Umbrella held a staged reading of "BITH - Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts" by local playwright John Van Slyke in April 2023. BITH used music, storytelling, shadow puppetry, and lip-syncing to navigate Dee's challenges with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Anxiety -- and a battle with something known as The Shadowman.



Cast and Crew of "Bigger Top", Christ Church Episcopal, August 2022

Our Community

We could not do this work without you all! Pink Umbrella is able to continue our mission of accessible theater for all, and Keep the Umbrella Open, because of our partners and donors. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Our Partners:

Arts @ Large, Christ Church, Plymouth Church, and the Blossom IDD for providing space for our in-person classes.

Maple Dale Middle School, the Jewish Community Center, the Wauwatosa School District, the Milwaukee Public School District, Lincoln Center for the Arts, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, St. Francis Children's Center, and many more for the new and continued partnerships.

Christ Church for the rehearsal and performance space for Bigger Top. Plymouth Church for the rehearsal space, and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Bradley Center for performance space for BITH.

Danceworks for a place to hold Em's Ensemble's Poetry Slam, and the Bavarian Bierhaus for hosting our second annual Tea Party Fundraiser.

Interpreting Solutions for making all of our events and shows accessible - huge shoutout to Jill and her team!

Donors & Grantors:

We wish we could name every one of you! We would like to thank the Silverstein Family Foundation, the Milwaukee Arts Board, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wisconsin Arts Board, the Herzfeld Foundation, and the Department of Human and Health Services.

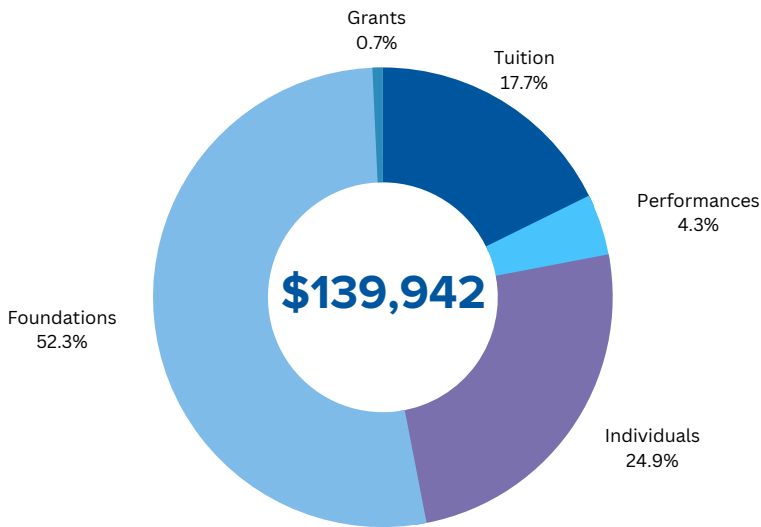
355
Donors

43
Foundations
& Grantors

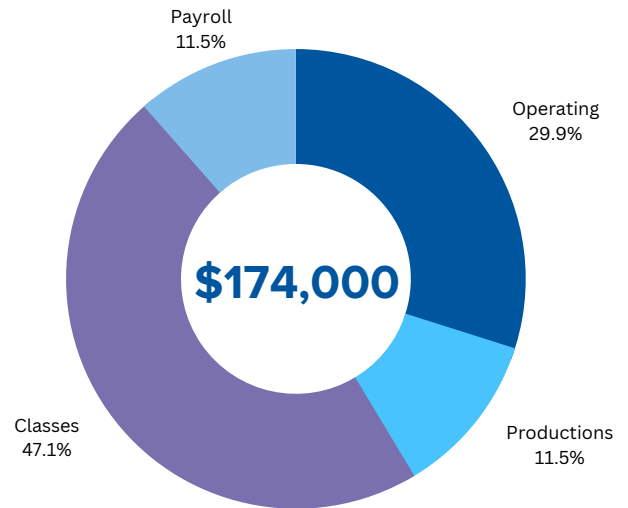


The Red Queen and her Royal Court, Tea Party Fundraiser, June 2023

Financial Statement



Income



Expenses



Em's Ensemble Poetry Slam Fundraiser, March 2023

18 Poets & Performers

70 Em's Audience

We grew this year, expanding our reach throughout Wisconsin, partnering with new community partners, and launching our Porch Play Program! This absolutely would not be possible without our generous donors, where any amount helps us cover our expenses. We were able to Keep the Umbrella Open for the 5th year, creating accessible theater through classes, consulting, workshops, performances, and community engagement.



Thank You!



2022-2023

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Herzfeld
Foundation

