

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been an incredibly exciting start to the school year! In late October we were able to successfully move into our new building within just a few days. The amazing staff had classes all the way through Saturday morning in our old location and were able to open to class on Monday afternoon in our new space. It was a long weekend but very rewarding for our families! The move has been an incredible journey and we have learned so much along the way! We look forward to many years in our new space!

Our capital campaign has just about wrapped up thanks to the very generous donors! We have paid cash for the building and started an endowment fund for the upkeep and to build a solid foundation for the future. As anticipated with a larger building, we have larger expenses and we are looking at ways to generate additional income so that we stay focused on our mission of providing arts to the kids regardless of their ability to pay. Two big components are rental spaces and an all day child care option. We have started the process of becoming a licensed daycare and hope to be able to launch sometime this summer. The rental spaces are now fully furnished and ready for your next event. We are focusing on small intimate events of 25-50 people. Please visit our website at jacksonarts.org/rent/ for more information.

This fall we launched Tae Kwon Do and quickly realized the program would need to be expanded. We started with one class of 20 kids and had to expand to two classes of 20 and an advanced class with an additional 10. Currently we have 65 kids in the program and are starting self defense classes for adults on the weekend.

Our theater program expanded this fall and we had a production class. The kids auditioned for a part and at the end of the session they did a 20 min abbreviated production of Willy Wonka. The production was on a Friday night and they performed three times in front of a packed audience! We were so proud of these kids! Our production class for the spring was filled before we even advertised it. We are going to be offering two different production classes in the fall since this is quickly becoming a student favorite!

Please feel free to contact me if you would like a tour of our space or if you have any feedback. We love to hear from our parents and our donors! Thank you for making JSA what it is today!

Please feel free to email carolyn@jacksonarts.org or call me at 517-784-2389 and we can set up a time to talk!

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!



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CAROLYN MOSER
Executive Director

KIDS CREATE NEW SPACES

OUR NEW ENCLOSED PLAYGROUND AREA COMPLEMENTS OUR CREATIVE PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE



In our new facilities, our Kids Create Preschool Experience not only has benefited from some dedicated space off of our Art studio, but they also have a special enclosed outdoor play area that has already proven to be quite a hit in different seasons.

Our new beautiful, and very colorful playground is inviting, safe and engaging! We have enjoyed getting our group outside for fresh air, sunshine, and exercise. The soft green grass has been a safe cushion to land on and is also stunning to the eye!

We have enriching activities including, instruments, a color wheel, wheels & gears, clear acrylic easels, and a rock climbing wall! The snowy landscape has been fun to explore in our play space as

well! We will spend the winter season all bundled up, making tracks in the fresh snow, rolling snowballs, building snowmen, and doing a little snow painting! We are very grateful to have this amazing new outdoor space to practice large motor skills, expel endless amounts of energy, and run, jump and play with our friends!

If you have kids ages 3 ½ to 5 and are looking for a Pre-School experience that meets twice a week, please consider joining us for our Kids Create Open House in anticipation of our Fall registration. Registration for Fall 2022 starts March 1st. We will also offer private tours as needed for families that cannot make that day/time.

THEATER PRODUCTION & PROGRAM GROWTH!

THE COMBINATION OF NEW SPACES & NEW INSTRUCTORS HAS BUILT FRESH ENTHUSIASM



As we built out our new facilities, we were excited to build a large Theater studio that would be home to a full stage and seating arrangements for audiences.

This new space was put to the test with our first Theater Productions this past December. In our Willy Wonka Jr production, we had students ranging in age from 5 to 14. They did amazing job of portraying different personalities that brought their story to life.

It was heartwarming to see the preparation and dedication that was evident in the performances and to see the family support during the evening's event.

We thank all of you that came out to both support our students and help support the future of our growing Theater program.

We opened registration for our Winter/Spring Theater classes around the same time as these performances and the enthusiasm from this production caused our next Production class, Neverland to be booked solid in just a couple days' time.

We also added an extra Theater class option for the Winter/Spring as well and our Theater program enrollment has now exceeded our already impressive Fall numbers. We are also looking to add an extra Production class for this coming Fall season to meet the growing enthusiasm we have for our program.

It is exciting to see our Theater program thrive in our new home and have such great support from our instructors and families.

FAIRY FESTIVAL APPROACHING!

WE ARE GEARING UP FOR OUR FIRST MAGICAL SEASON DOWNTOWN



Our Annual Fairy Festival has been known to bring thousands of children from all around Michigan and surrounding states and we are extremely excited to bring this magical event to our new home in Downtown Jackson for the first time.

At the Fairy Festival, our volunteers and staff are dressed and ready to transport visitors to a magical land of fairies and pirates! We will all the favorite activities that make the fairy festival so magical: the cupcake cafe, fairy store, art projects and vendors.

This year, Saturday, April 30 will be a premium, ticketed event day, similar to our exclusive setup last year. However, on Sunday, May 1 we will host a free event open to the public like in our past years.

The Saturday event will have limited reservations for time slots, but all activities and snacks are included in the price of admission. This will help us keep crowd sizes comfortable and give those interested in the activities the best value. On May 1, visitors will need to purchase access to certain activities on an a la carte basis.

Fairy Festival is our primary fundraiser of the year. The funds raised support our mission of providing quality, accessible arts education programs for Jackson County youth regardless of their financial means.

If you are interested in helping the magic happen Downtown – either on a volunteer or donor basis, please let us know! You can email us at info@jacksonarts.org or call us at (517) 784-2389. Please consider supporting this beloved event!

TAE KWON DO KOREAN TEA CEREMONY

SUCCESSFUL FALL LEADS TO ADDITIONAL PROGRAM EXPANSION



Tae Kwon Do was our newest class offering as we made a transition into our new Downtown home and the growth after the move has been quite impressive. This past fall season concluded with the traditional Korean Tea Ceremony promotion event.

The program not only let our friends and families get a feel for the program that has been developing their students' focus, confidence, and fitness, but it also served as a testing for belt promotions.

The board-breaking demonstrations were obviously the favorite activity among the students and it was great to see the pride in these young faces as they bask in their accomplishment.

In addition to the great deal of support from the students'

families visiting, but the camaraderie that was evident between the students was wonderful to see as well.

It also seems that the enthusiasm behind our first major Tae Kwon Do season and this event sparked a strong number of new Tae Kwon Do signups for our Winter session. In the fall, we had 38 Tae Kwon Do students finish the season. However, we have nearly 70 as we progress into February 2022. In addition, we have an Adult Self-Defense class as an extension of the Tae Kwon Do program.

If any of these programs interest you, please visit jacksonarts.org/taekwondo/ for more information and registration. We have found that this classic Martial Art helps students develop a disciplined character, improve their overall fitness, and improve their confidence and focus.

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sarah Ermatinger, Board Chair

Chief Experience Officer, True Community Credit Union

Sarah has worked at TRUE Community Credit Union for 23 years and is the Chief Experience Officer. A key part of Sarah's role is community engagement and as such, she serves and has served on multiple boards. Sarah is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art. She shares, "My love for art has always been an inherent in my life. I have experienced and seen the power of creativity its impact on a person's mind, heart and soul. Supporting arts accessibility is key for the community and the well being of our youth".



Phil Curtis, Vice Chair

Managing Attorney, Curtis, Curtis & Brelinski

Philip J. Curtis is a partner and managing attorney of Curtis, Curtis & Brelinski, P.C., which was founded by his grandfather, former Jackson County Probate Court Judge George H. Curtis, in 1901. As a lifelong resident of Jackson County, Mr. Curtis enjoys his family, giving back and serving his community by, among other things, serving on the Board of Directors of the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan, the Jackson School of the Arts, and the Spring Arbor University Foundation in Spring Arbor, Michigan, and supporting many worthwhile organizations.



Mike England, Past Chair

Willis & Machnik Financial Services, LLC, Advisor

Mike has served on our Board of Directors for 8 years. As a financial advisor at Willis & Machnik Financial Services and a resident in the City of Jackson, Mike enjoys giving back to the community and has served on numerous boards and committees over the years. Mike is a graduate of Spring Arbor University. He shares, "Making arts available to all members of our community is important. It's a critical component to the growth and culture of Jackson. My children participated in JSA when they were younger and it feels great to give back to ensure these services are available to future generations."



Karen Hawley, Secretary

Owner, JTV

Karen is an owner, with husband Bart Hawley, of local television station, JTV. Founded in 2000 and starting the business from scratch, JTV has grown to become South Central Michigan's number one source for all positive and hyper-local community news, information and entertainment. Karen has been on the JSA Board for 5 years, serving as Board Secretary since Fall of 2020. Karen is a strong supporter of JSA, and values the programs and services to children and adults that might otherwise not have access to the Arts.



Sarah Miller, Treasurer

CFO, American 1 Credit Union

Miller, a dedicated American 1 employee of 15 years and currently oversees the IT, Facilities, Payments, Risk & Compliance, and Accounting departments for the credit union. "I was a gymnast as a child and enjoyed art classes throughout school. Now, as an adult, I understand the value and impact that those experiences had in my life, and I want to be a part of bringing those experiences to children in our community," Miller said. "My advice to others who want to get involved with their community is to determine what you're passionate about and what strengths you bring to the table, and then find an organization that strikes the perfect marriage. Because when you find that perfect combination, your impact will be more meaningful – both personally and for the organization."



Dorie Shelby

Dean of the School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts at Spring Arbor University

Dorie shares, "As Dean of the School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts at Spring Arbor University, I work with other creatives. I spend my days surrounded by their paintings, music, stories, films, voices, and ideas. It makes my life beautiful and my heart full. The opportunity to serve Jackson School of the Arts is an opportunity to insure the creativity we are all born with, is nurtured in each and every person who is touched by the organization. After all, our ability to make the world a better, more beautiful place is at the core of being human. I am honored and humbled to be a part of that mission."



Matthew Aubin, D.M.A.

Artistic Director, The Chelsea Symphony & Music Director, Jackson Symphony

A leader in the 21st century orchestral landscape, Dr. Matthew Aubin is a leading champion of innovative performance formats and creative initiatives both on and off the podium. In addition to serving as Artistic Director for The Chelsea Symphony, Dr. Aubin has served as Music Director of the Jackson Symphony in Michigan for the past 6 years. He shares, "Upon moving to Jackson, I was immediately struck by the vibrancy of the art scene in Jackson. It's unusual for a small community to have such rich offerings—a symphony, theatre, museum and of course, the Jackson School of the Arts! These institutions are treasures for our community."

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