



HIGHLIGHTS

FREE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES STARTS AUGUST 7

The FREE Community Foundation Performing Arts Series at the Chris Wilson Pavilion runs every Saturday night in August, starting at 7 pm. Come out to Potawatomi Park and join us for wonderful performances from Southold Dance, Vesper Chorale, South Bend Civic Theatre, and the South Bend Symphony! You can find all the details at www.cfsjc.org/series.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Community Foundation welcomes four new members to its Board as of July 1, 2021: Richard Currey, Mark Neal, Kristin Pruitt, and Leonard Sanchez. Our exceptional Board is one of our greatest assets. We're grateful to all of our Board members, past and present, for their service.

AMY RAUCH JOINS FOUNDATION STAFF IN NEW PROGRAM ROLE

We're thrilled that Amy Rauch is joining the Community Foundation's Program team as Program Director, Education. Rauch has more than 20 years of experience in K-12 education in Indiana, in roles including Director of STEM for the Indiana Department of Education. She holds a doctorate in educational studies/educational administration from Purdue University and has her superintendent's license.



Amy Rauch



Southold Dance Theater returned to the stage for *Cinderella* in June, with more than 80 dancers performing in front of a socially-distanced audience.

Local Arts Organizations Are Back in the Spotlight

After 18 long months, the arts are starting to return to normal—and that's good for our whole community.

There's nothing like a crisis to spur innovation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, local arts and culture organizations scrambled to find safe, new ways to present their work and collections. Now the clouds are lifting—and along the way, many organizations developed skills that will continue to benefit them in the future.

A NEW NORM: VIRTUAL EVENTS

Rather than interrupt a long-standing tradition, the History Museum decided to rethink its beloved "Christmas at Copshaholm" tour in 2020. Using actors to portray members of the Oliver family—each filmed separately—the Museum created its first virtual version of the event, streaming it for free though YouTube. The new format was a success,

with attendance equalling past in-person tours, and the Museum plans to do more in the future.

"We're committed to continuing our virtual offerings," says Marilyn Thompson, director of marketing for the Museum. "People have told us our virtual offerings have made them feel even more connected to the museum."

Along the way, many organizations have developed skills that will continue to benefit them in the future.

Many organizations tried similar approaches. The South Bend Museum of Art created free online videos for educators, accompanied by downloadable worksheets, since school tours with docents had to be put on hold. Others experimented with pay-per-view platforms, such as Vimeo, often relying on smaller

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ensembles and shorter events to keep artists as safe as possible. Some had to make difficult choices: The Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association, based at Notre Dame, decided to hold its 2020 competition in a virtual-only format, in part so that the musicians—many of whom lost work during the pandemic—could still compete for the prize money.

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“I think we had a progression of learning how to pivot during the pandemic,” says Aaron Albin, executive director of local theater company Art 4. The organization grew its approach over time, starting small with 30-minute weekly “Showtunes,” and ultimately “went big” with its production of the musical *Ragtime*, which was filmed at 10 different community locations and streamed online.

USING DOWNTIME WELL During the months when in-person events weren’t possible, many nonprofits

turned to organizing collections, training staff, or doing donor outreach [see sidebar]. With the help of a Community Foundation ArtsEverywhere grant, South Bend Civic Theatre hosted a large-scale summit for its Board members, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders, developing plans for extending its impact on the community in the future.

Melissa Gard, executive director of the Acting Ensemble, used the time to help renovate the organization’s new home: 602 E. Mishawaka Ave., near Mishawaka’s Central Park. Acting Ensemble plans to stage its first show in the new space this fall.

IN-PERSON AGAIN Now, many of the arts organizations are returning to live performance. The South Bend Symphony retook the stage in mid-April, performing three concerts at the Morris Performing Arts Center with reduced audiences and a smaller ensemble; larger Pops-style concerts at Four Winds Fields followed. Southold Dance Theater performed *Cinderella* with more than 80 dancers in mid-June in front of a socially-distanced audience at the Lerner. South Bend Civic Theatre has

multiple shows running through the rest of the year, with *Matilda* opening in September—its first in-person, full-scale musical back on the Wilson stage. Even choral groups—who were particularly cautious, due to COVID’s spread through airborne particles—are back in action. In July, Vesper Chorale joined South Bend Lyric Opera to perform *Cavalleria Rusticana* with a live orchestra, and South Bend Chamber Singers plans a full season of performances this fall.

Throughout the pandemic, our local arts organizations have shown tremendous ingenuity and resilience. In many ways, the absence of the arts underscored their importance—both for audiences and for artists.

“We’ve learned to value both our music-making and the joys of being together as a community more than ever before,” says Jeshua Switzer, musical director of Vesper Chorale. “We’re excited to begin singing, rehearsing, and performing together again.”

We support our local arts organizations with biannual competitive grants from our ArtsEverywhere Fund. Learn more at cfsjc.org/arts.

Casaday Costume Keeps Busy During COVID



This Victorian or Edwardian reticule—blue glass bead work on a silk frame with a repoussé clasp—is one of the Casaday Costume Company pieces featured in its new note card collection, created during the pandemic to showcase highlights of the collection and generate an additional revenue stream.

When COVID-19 forced theaters to go dark last year, demand for costume rentals dried up overnight. But behind the scenes, the Casaday Costume Company had plenty to do.

Manager Greta Fisher and her team have stayed busy sorting, organizing, repairing, and creating new costumes. The Casaday staff is also working on cataloging the collection in a digital database, with support from \$25,000 ArtsEverywhere grant from the Community Foundation.

Over the past 18 months, “We’ve touched thousands of pieces in the

collection,” says Fisher, “and have gotten them in a much better place.”

She’s also been exploring new ways to generate revenue, including a series of note cards that will showcase some of the unique items in the Casaday collection [see image, left]. She also hopes to create and sell sewing patterns for some of the collection’s vintage clothing.

“This way, we can share our collection items that can’t be rented because they’re too fragile,” Fisher says. “It’s also a wonderful way to expose people to what we have.”



Our Donors: Karen & Derek White

If you're local, you probably know Karen White. You may know her from her many years of service as a member of South Bend Common Council, or from her work on the South Bend Community School Corporation Board. Or you may remember her as Associate Vice Chancellor at Indiana University South Bend. But did you know that Karen and her son Derek are also committed philanthropists who have a donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation?

Karen, a former Foundation Board member, credits Dr. Virginia Calvin with encouraging her to start the fund when the African American Community Fund began in 1999.

"When she first approached me, I said, 'What? I can't do that!'" Karen recalls. "But I *was* able to do it—on a monthly basis. A certain amount was taken out of my check, and I didn't miss it."

Bit by bit, she grew the fund over time. Now she's able to make grants from the fund to support scholarships and organizations that she cares about.

A multi-generational fund, the Karen and Derek White Fund is about

cultivating a legacy of giving back. Derek works with his mother to recommend grants from the fund.

"What inspires me," Derek says, "is having a mother who is so giving of herself."

"What inspires me," Derek says, "is having a mother who is so giving of herself. We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. You have that cycle of giving, that cycle of caring, that cycle of community—and the Foundation is a beacon for that."

What words of advice does Karen have to those who are considering using philanthropy to leave a family legacy?

"If I can do it, anyone can do it," Karen says, firmly. "Our community will only become the community that it should be if each and every one of us works with a common force, a common vision, and common goals."

You can create your own legacy of giving back with a donor-advised fund. Learn how at cfsjc.org/for-donors.

Recent Grant Helps Seniors Age in Place

A recent \$10,000 Senior Living grant from the Community Foundation is helping residents at South Bend Heritage apartment properties stay engaged and active—a key component of successful aging in place.

The properties include Robertson's Apartments, the Rushton, and the Oliver, which are home to some 150 senior citizens.

South Bend Heritage has been putting together activities for residents for years, but concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities during 2020—and the isolation inherent to the pandemic only increased the need. Since January 2021, activities such as movie nights, "grab-and-go" boxed dinners, bingo, and card games have begun again, and residents are eager to take part.

"It's great to hear from residents about how they appreciate our health and wellness activities," says Marco Mariano, executive director of South Bend Heritage. "We're committed to delivering the best services possible."

Learn more about the Community Foundation's work to support local seniors at cfsjc.org/seniors.



Gathering for grab-and-go dinners at Robertson's



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Ten Local Nonprofits Host Foundation Interns

As a component of their scholarship awards, Laidig Community Service scholars and Charles Martin “Touch a Life” scholars serve paid summer internships with some of St. Joseph County’s best nonprofit organizations. This summer, 11 Laidig scholars and four Charles Martin scholars are interning with the following organizations:

- South Bend Heritage
- REAL Services Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club of SJC
- Hope Ministries
- Unity Gardens
- La Casa de Amistad
- Dismas House
- Green Bridge Growers
- Reins of Life
- Heroes Camp

Did you know the Community Foundation provides close to a million dollars in scholarships to deserving local students each year? Learn more at cfsjc.org/scholarships.



Charles Martin scholar Kayla Mkandawire, who is interning with Hope Ministries this summer

Summer Interns Learn, Contribute

Kayla Mkandawire has learned a lot this summer in her internship with Hope Ministries—about the organization and about herself.

“I hadn’t realize how connected we all are,” she says.

Kayla, a Charles Martin “Touch a Life” scholar, will be a first-year student at Loyola University Chicago this fall, studying neuroscience. Working at Hope has inspired her.

“I’m definitely going to look into how trauma affects the brain, and also how childhood connections affect a child

when they grow up,” she says.

Kayla is one of 15 scholarship recipients interning with St. Joseph County nonprofit organizations this summer. These paid internships help students develop real-world experience and marketable skills while also helping organizations serve clients. It’s a “win-win” for everyone.

“I’m very thankful for this opportunity to serve my community,” Kayla says. “I think it’s really important to give back to South Bend because everyone’s helped me so much.”