

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Education & Community Programs

2023-2024 Report

JOANNE

ASE

U.S. BANK
MAIN STAGE

Orchestra



Regional Arts &
Culture Council



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Photo: La Catrina installation for Dia De Los Muertos by Alejandro VI Barragan



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STAGE DOOR Student Matinees

Our student matinee program, “STAGE DOOR”, aims to greatly increase the number of young people who experience high-quality, professional theater. The program offers deeply subsidized tickets, including free tickets for schools with 50% or more qualifying for free or reduced lunch and nonprofit organizations serving youth. The program also provides online resource guides, building tours, post-show Q&As with artists, and in-school workshops – all for free – to help educators incorporate theater into classroom curricula.

“Thank you so much for the tickets to yesterday’s performance of *Dracula* for our students. They loved the whole experience so much! One student said the whole experience made him feel like a “normal” high school student. They are so segregated from the other high schools and have experienced so much trauma. These experiences really mean a lot to them. I just wanted you to know you made a difference”

– Student matinee group leader



PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Students Served

4,521 students attended a play

3,116 received a free ticket

797 participated in a workshop

360 went on a building tour

134 groups saw a play

On a scale of one to five, 88.9% of youth responded with a 4 or 5 when asked if they were absorbed by and enjoyed the performance.

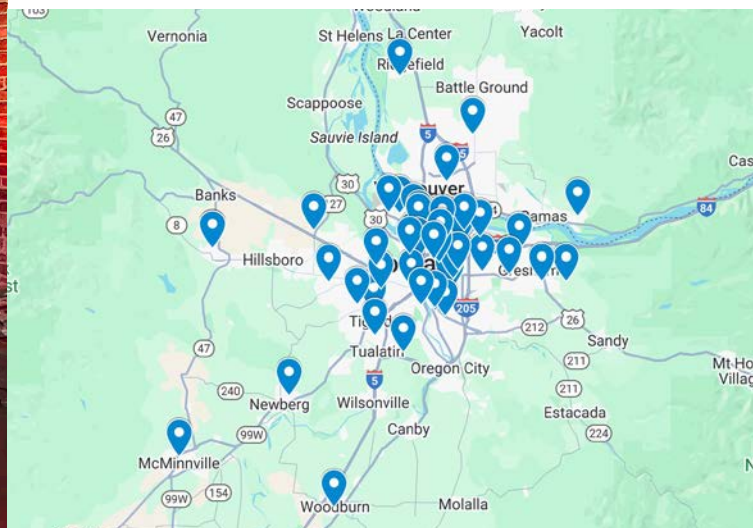
92.6% responded they learned something about other people’s experiences that are different from their own.

“Seeing people like me on a stage was very fun to see and knowing there are shows for us is something I will take with me.”

– McDaniel High School student who attended *Quixote Nuevo*.

Left: Student matinee of *What The Constitution Means to Me*. Photo by Tamera Lyn. PSU Mariachi ensemble.

Schools/organizations served in the Portland metro region.



Teen Playwrights

Designed to meet Oregon benchmarks for Arts and English/Language Arts, our Teen Playwrights residencies address theatrical conventions and dramatic structure, as well as writing and constructive critical response. The playwriting program culminates at the end of the school year with free, public readings of plays selected from all the residency sites, performed by professional actors. In addition, up to six Teen Playwright “graduates” are commissioned to write short plays for PCS’s annual JAW New Play Festival, working alongside professionals from across the country.

“My experience with PCS during the JAW festival was incredible! Getting guidance and feedback from artists who work professionally in the theater was so helpful and the entire team there was supportive of me as we worked through the process. It was both extremely educational and fascinating to watch the other plays being put on that weekend take shape and it was an invaluable experience for both the writing and directing processes that go on behind the scenes. I am so thankful that I was able to be a part of it!”

– Eleanor Warner, JAW Teen Playwright

“The Table is Set, Everyone is Welcome” These are the words I told my friends and community as I invited them to the JAW Festival, to come watch the staged reading of my second play with Portland Center Stage. Many friends came, new and old, and we sat in a room and stories were told, new stories, stories untold because we had not yet told them yet. Yes, new stories were told. I invited all my friends and community to the JAW Festival. And when those who could not make it to the Table ask about it, all I can say with a smile too wide and twinkle too keen is, “it was magical.”

– Brandt Maina, JAW Young Playwright



High Schools and Number of Students Served

Jefferson H.S.....	12
McDaniel H.S.....	15
Roosevelt H.S.....	20
Rosemary Anderson H.S.....	12

Photos: HAIR Q&A, JAW Teen Playwrights 2023.





Teen Council & Teen Academy

Teen Theater Academy builds skills and confidence, while deepening the connection to the inspiring world of theater. Our teaching professionals, drawn from artists whose work can be seen on our stages, provide theater training focused on scene work, monologues, musical theater, devising and more. With many offerings in Summer, Teen Academy also offers classes throughout the school year.

Teen Council is composed of high school students who want a deeper involvement with professional theater and opportunities to take part in advanced theater experiences. Activities involve attending monthly workshops led by PCS professionals and select performances of our productions. Participation is always free and ongoing.

“I will remember the progress I was able to achieve in such a short time. In only a matter of days I had a monologue which challenged my ability as well as a two-character Scene! I will remember my two brilliant teachers and my like-minded peers.”

- Teen Academy participant

“I learned so much and have grown in confidence and artistry. I am so so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with all the passionate and knowledgeable teachers I have had throughout my time at PCS. I made lasting connections with friends and mentors which I will continue to treasure. Thank you again for helping to create a space in Portland where I felt welcomed and celebrated. I’ve recently begun to live by the motto “go where you’re celebrated, not where you’re tolerated”. My time with you all has certainly made that a reality.” - Teen Academy participant



Students Served

68 Teens in five Teen Academy Sessions

145 Teens participating in eight Teen Council Events

80 Active Core Teen Council Members



Community Programs

Portland Center Stage aims to create transcendent theatrical experiences and community programs that break down the barriers separating people.

Community Programs at PCS seek to elevate local artists, creatives, and experts. Our partnerships center Black, Indigenous, and other Communities of Color while prioritizing accessibility. Inspired by themes found in our productions, community programs explore parallels to what is happening in our community. From post-show discussions and First Thursday celebrations to pre-show performances and movie nights, PCS community programs are designed to enhance our audience's experience of the productions, build community, and serve as places of connection and conversation.

“Working with Portland Center Stage has been an incredible experience. We’ve been honored to host our Ya Heard BIPOC Youth open mic there because it’s such a warm and welcoming space for the youth of our community.”

- Friends of Noise, Executive Director, André Middleton

“PCS is a valued and consistent partner of Pueblo Unido. PCS has donated its space and tickets on numerous occasions to support our work with Indigenous interpreters and people with vulnerable immigration status, as well as our community outreach and fundraising activities.”

- Pueblo Unido PDX, Executive Director, Cam Coval

Community Served

7,978 attended a community event at Portland Center Stage

1,245 patrons came early for a pre-show Prologue

Engaged 46 organizations for partnership in programming – 30 were culturally specific or social justice-focused.

Hired 42 artists/experts, 76% were people of color

Photos: Immigrant Stories & Big Band





Adult Classes

Taught by a diverse pool of talented professionals from throughout the region and beyond, our Adult Classes provide recurring opportunities for anyone interested in learning more about the living stage and other storytelling art forms.

“Hey PCS staff! I’m currently enrolled in the six week improv class. I freaking LOVE it. I’m having a blast and learning so much. Andy is a phenomenal teacher and I’m really hoping that you will offer a continuation of this class. Please, PLEASE, keep this program going! Thanks for all you do.”

- Improv student

“I’m already signed up for the second acting class, I can’t wait! All of your instructors have been phenomenal. Nicole and Tyler are an amazing teaching duo!” - Acting class student



Photos: Melory Mirashrafi Directing & JAW Street Dancing Showcase

Adults Served

493 adults enrolled for a space in one of our 30 classes offered.



Addendum A: Student Matinee Groups

Alliance High School

Aloha High School

Catlin Gabel School

Centennial High School

Central Catholic High School

Clackamas High School

Clatskanie High School

Community Alternative
Learning Center

Community Transition Program

David Douglas High School

Forest Grove High School

Fort Vancouver High School

Glide High School

Grant High School

Gresham High School

Helensview High School

Ida B. Wells High School

Le Monde French Immersion

Liberty High School

McDaniel High School

McMinnville High School

Metro Montessori Middle School

Metropolitan Learning Center

Milwaukie Academy of the Arts

Mt. Scott Learning Center

Nelson High School

New Narrative Pdx

Newberg High School

North Clackamas High School

Northwest Academy

Oregon Episcopal School

p:ear

Pioneer High School

Pioneer School

Pocatello High School

Portland Waldorf School

Prairie High School

R.A. Long High School

Reynolds High School

Reynolds Learning Academy

Ridgefield High School

Riverside High School

Roosevelt High School

Rosemary Anderson High School

Sam Barlow High School

Sandy High School

Southridge High School

Springwater Trail High School

St Mary's Academy

Sunnyside Environmental School

Tigard High School

Trout Lake School

Wahkiakum High School

Washougal High School

Woodburn High School



Addendum B: Community Partners

ARTS GROUPS/ ORGANIZATIONS

Linstorm Playwrights
 Samewave Radio
 Portland Pole
 and Dance
 Find A Way Productions
 Friends of Noise
 Klyph Notes
 greaterkind band
 Big Mouth Society
 Chibia
 Anonymous Theater
 Espacio Flamenco
 Front Porch Sessions
 PSU Mariachi
 Marion Singers
 Ida B. Wells Wave Choir
 Albina Music Trust
 Brown/Branch
 Siren Theater
 Seffarine
 Juntos PDX
 Literary Arts
 Palmas Del Sol
 Still Blooming -
 Adelante
 Mujeres event

Chera Chera
 Adriana Wagner Quartet
 Resonance Ensemble
 Raggaeton
 Liminal bodies
 (literaoke)

INDIVIDUALS/ ARTISTS/EXPERTS

Lauren Steele
 David Saffert
 Courtney Freed
 Brandt Maina
 Jocelyn James
 Eleanor Warner
 Melory Mirashrafi
 Snieder Walker
 Jesus Rodales-Avila
 Charlie Brown III
 Iris Sparrow
 Kimo Camat
 Jonas Angelet
 Leslie Pardo
 Ashlie Brazell
 Cliff Stafford

Alosa
 Bryson Wallace
 Chris Williams
 Maria Inocencio
 Lucy Wells
 Jes
 Muffie Delgado
 Maria Joan Dixon
 Lee Tillman
 Caroline Fullerton
 Latoya Lovely
 Bryson Wallace
 Sahar Wilson
 Joonae Kim
 Perreo Princess
 Maria TD Inocencio
 Ronin Roc
 Mika Martinez
 Sarah Clarke
 Taiyah Simone
 VNPRT
 Wendi YuLing
 Qi You
 Carissa Te-Hsuan Chu
 Alejandro Barragan
 Yusra Siddiqui

GOVERNMENT, CIVIC & OTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Blanchet House
 Pride NW
 Centro Cultural
 Immigrant Stories
 Inside / Out
 Keek Mag
 Coalition of
 Communities of Color
 Candy Girl Pinatas
 Peacekeeper
 Society PDX
 Trans Wardrobe Project
 Cositas PDX
 Mercado Lula
 Guardian Partners
 Equi Institute
 Portland Refugee
 Support Group
 Civics Learning Project
 Juntos PDX
 The Deltas