

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16 SEASON



THIS SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

Total main stage attendance: **138,494.**

Student attendance at Playhouse main stage, education and outreach programs: 57,354.

Number of subscribers: 13,176, the highest of any nonprofit regional theatre in Ohio, Kentucky or Indiana.

Combined main stage attendance over the past two seasons for single and group ticket sales increased by 30 percent versus the previous two seasons combined.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, *A Christmas Carol* played to the highest total attendance of the past 15 seasons.

Our 24th consecutive season with an operating surplus.



ARTISTICALLY BOLD

WILDLY ENTERTAINING

Your support made it possible for us to continue offering compelling new work by dynamic playwrights, with this season featuring **two phenomenal world premieres written by women:** *The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson and *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías. We are thrilled that *Native Gardens*, which was commissioned by the Playhouse, has garnered upcoming productions at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater and Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. *The Revolutionists* had a subsequent production at 7Stages in Atlanta and is opening the season at Main Street Theater in Houston this fall. **Thank you for helping add to the canon of American theatre!**



Kenita R. Miller and Jessica Lynn Carroll in *The Revolutionists*. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.

MOMENTS OF CONNECTION

MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

Multigenerational programming has been a cornerstone of each Playhouse season, allowing adults to share the joys of live theatre with young people throughout the year. Your generosity helped us **bring generations together to experience great stories from different eras and cultures**, including *The Secret Garden*, *A Christmas Carol* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This season, more than 11,000 youth attended our family-friendly productions — the highest number in more than 20 years. Thank you!



Caitlin Cohn in *The Secret Garden*. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

INSPIRED LEARNING

The Playhouse continued to provide **high-quality learning experiences in the arts to more than 40,000 students** across our region through our robust education programs. One of these programs — the Playhouse School Outreach Tour — brought three productions for young audiences to more than 100 schools across the Tristate. Because of you, more than 22,000 students — 85 percent of whom were economically disadvantaged — experienced this season's productions.



Renika Williams and Robert Carlton Stimmel
in *Antigone*. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.



A NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

What a wonderful year for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park! It has been my great pleasure to serve as board president these past two years and be part of this wonderful organization. **On behalf of the entire board, thank you for your support!**

I am amazed by the generosity of our subscribers, patrons and the many organizations that are part of the Playhouse family. I've had the opportunity to speak with subscribers who have been visiting the Playhouse for more than 30 years and also to share in the excitement as hundreds of young people in our community witness their first live theatre performance. **As the demands on all of our time continue to grow, we take joy in seeing people "log out" and experience great theatre.**

And, we're very excited with what lies ahead for the Playhouse. Our new brand, an outstanding season of productions and plans to take your Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park theatre experience to the next level are just a few of the things in store for you!

Jenny Powell

2015-16 CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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A NOTE FROM BLAKE AND BUZZ



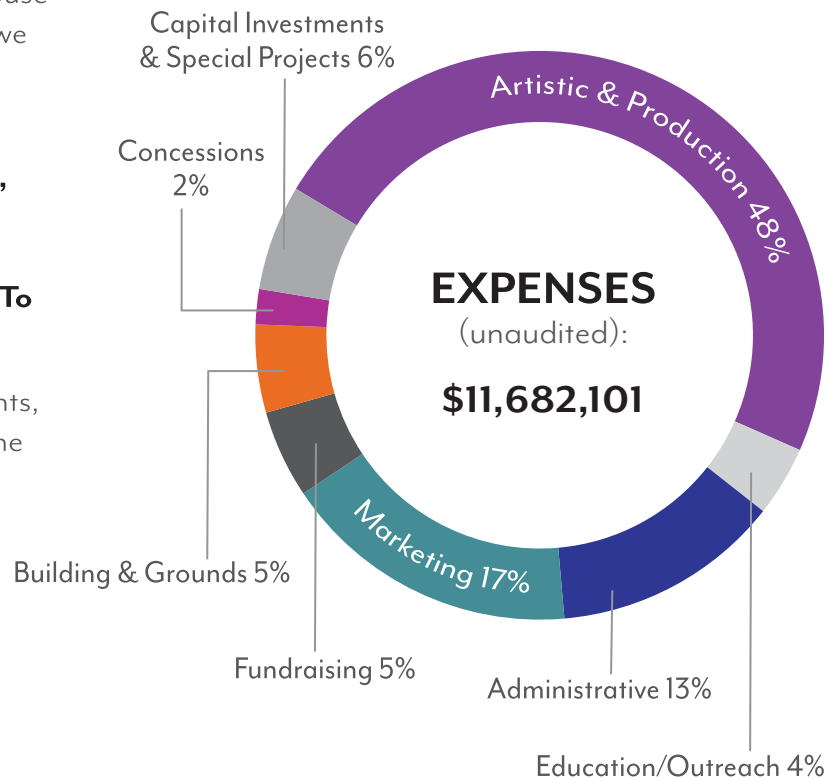
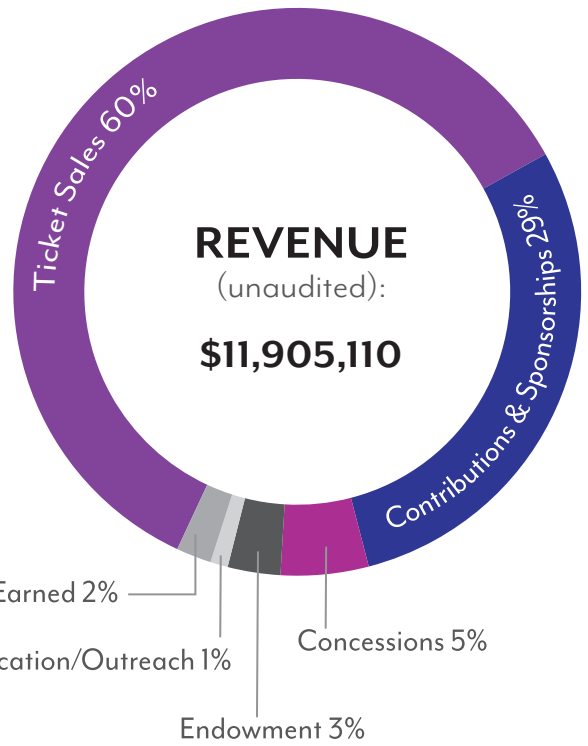
By every measure, the 2015-16 season was a rousing success. From the gorgeous musical *The Secret Garden* to world premiere works such as *Native Gardens* to the family classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we continued to serve our large subscription audience and welcomed many new patrons to the Playhouse along the way. Plus, for the 24th year in a row, we ended the season “in the black.”

None of this would be possible without the loyalty and support of our donors, sponsors, local foundations, ArtsWave and its contributors, subscribers and thousands of single ticket buyers throughout the season. To all of you, we offer a huge thank you!

Together, we celebrate our past accomplishments, even as we look to new joys and discoveries in the coming season. See you at the theatre!

Blake Robison | Artistic Director

Buzz Ward | Managing Director



Pictured on the front cover: Felicia P. Fields in *Low Down Dirty Blues*; Henry Charles Weghorst and Bruce Cromer in *A Christmas Carol*; Alvin Keith and Ben Cherry in *Mothers and Sons*. Photos by Mikki Schaffner.

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