

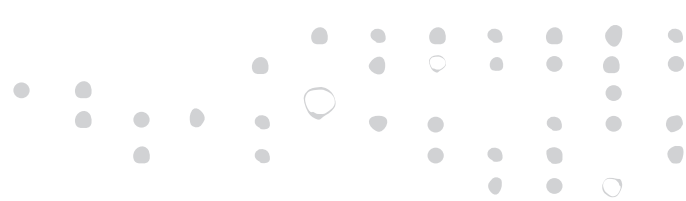
2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

UNMATCHED VARIETY
UNEQUALED ARTISTRY



PLAY IN THE PARK
CINCINNATI HOUSE

2018-19 SEASON



ROBERT S. MARX THEATRE

MISERY

By WILLIAM GOLDMAN
Based on the novel by STEPHEN KING

SEPT. 1 – 29, 2018



LEADING Ladies presents

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

By LAUREN GUNDERSON
and MARGOT MELCON

OCT. 13 – NOV. 10, 2018



IN THE HEIGHTS

Music and Lyrics by LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
Book by QUIARA ALEGRIA HUDES
Conceived by LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

JAN. 19 – FEB. 17, 2019



AUGUST WILSON'S TWO TRAINS RUNNING

Presented by MOE & JACK ROUSE
and RANDOLPH WADSWORTH

MARCH 2 – 30, 2019



YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by CHARLES M. SCHULZ
Book, Music and Lyrics by CLARK GESNER

APRIL 20 – MAY 18, 2019



SEASON EXTRA!

FIRST first financial bank presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By CHARLES DICKENS
Adapted by HOWARD DALLIN

NOV. 21 – DEC. 29, 2018



SHELTERHOUSE THEATRE

THE ROOMMATE

By JEN SILVERMAN

SEPT. 21 – OCT. 21, 2018



WORLD PREMIERE!

CINCINNATI KING

By KJ SANCHEZ

NOV. 3 – DEC. 23, 2018



WORLD PREMIERE!

THE LAST WIDE OPEN

By AUDREY CEFALY

FEB. 9 – MARCH 10, 2019



THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

By LARISSA FASTHORSE

MARCH 23 – APRIL 21, 2019



WORLD PREMIERE!

TINY HOUSES

By CHELSEA MARCANTEL

MAY 4 – JUNE 2, 2019



SEASON EXTRA!

The Second City — IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME

JAN. 10 – 27, 2019



Season presented by SCHUELER GROUP and HEIDELBERG DISTRIBUTING CO.

Season Sponsor of New Work: THE ROSENTHAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

Marketing visuals by Tony Arrasmith/Arrasmith & Associates. Barbara Chisholm as *Misery's* Annie Wilkes. Ayana Workman as *Mary Bennet*.
The cast of *In the Heights* by Michael Brosilow. The cast of *A Christmas Carol* by Mikki Schaffner.

LETTER FROM WOODY TAFT

Greetings from the Playhouse in the Park's Board of Trustees.

To say that my first year as President of the Board of your Playhouse was exciting would be an understatement. From world-class theatre on the Marx and Shelterhouse stages to community engagement programs that reach thousands year-after-year, the Playhouse continues to expand its reach and bring the profound power of live theatre to residents all across our community.

We have also seen tremendous initial success with our capital campaign to renovate our iconic Eden Park facility. With significant financial support raised from a small circle of supporters, a project like this requires each and every one of us to be engaged. I look forward to discussing this undertaking with many of you in the months ahead.

The future is bright for your Playhouse as we continue to produce theatre that rivals any you see elsewhere, while simultaneously securing the home for this great work for decades to come. I hope you will join us once again next season with your support, your good words and your enthusiasm. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Woody Taft".

Woody Taft
Board President

LETTER FROM BLAKE AND BUZZ

As the co-CEOs of your Playhouse, we feel an overwhelming sense of pride to share the results of a season that boasts so many successful moments. From blockbuster productions including *In the Heights* to the world premiere of *Cincinnati King* to our comprehensive educational programming, our iconic theatre on the hill in Eden Park continues to bring masterful depth and breadth of theatre to audiences all over the Tristate.

As promised in last year's Annual Report, this institution will see the necessary revitalization of its facility. With millions of dollars raised to-date, designs will be finalized soon. More details will be made available to the thousands of patrons who have shared many evenings over several decades with us.

None of this could have been or will be possible without you: your guidance, financial support and enthusiasm ensure that the future of the Playhouse will be just as rich as its past and present. Thank you for everything you have done and will do for your Playhouse, and we look forward to seeing you next season!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Robison".

Blake Robison
Artistic Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buzz Ward".

Buzz Ward
Managing Director

IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Each year, ArtsWave raises over \$12 million to support more than 100 arts and community organizations across our region. Through their Blueprint for Collective Action, a strategic plan for creating community through the arts, they work through five focus areas to make our region an amazing and vibrant place to live. The Playhouse is proud to partner with ArtsWave to deepen this investment in our community.



SERVED
183,871
residents through all mainstage productions, education programs and outreach activities



ARTS ENLIVEN NEIGHBORHOODS

43 community partners across the region, including public libraries, retirement homes, community arts centers and halfway houses

3,005 residents reached through **43** Off the Hill performances

15 counties in the Tristate area connected through the arts

ARTS PUT CINCINNATI ON THE MAP

12 extraordinary theatre productions with a total mainstage attendance of **135,310**

3 world premiere plays, for a grand total of **82** world premieres produced since 1960



ARTS DEEPEN ROOTS

1,075 participants at **12** Off the Grid and young professionals events

242 attendees at **9** Playhouse Perspectives and audience engagement events

56,642 attendees of family-friendly, multigenerational shows

111 attendees at the 5th annual Playhouse Pride event

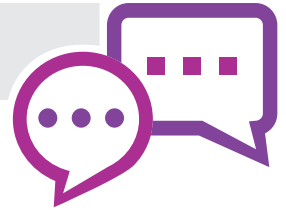
THE POWER OF HER

7 works by women playwrights (including 3 world premieres)

6 women directors

ARTS BRIDGE CULTURAL DIVIDES

62,462 attendees of new and diverse works



Emphasized diversity and representation by hiring a professional acting intern company that had **71%** artists of color

4 works by **5** diverse playwrights and **4** diverse directors

120 students engaged by Latinx outreach activities

ARTS FUEL CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

9,536 children and teen attendees of regular performances of mainstage productions

6,304 students, teachers and chaperones at **12** on-site student matinees

37,036 students impacted through in-school programs and workshops at **129** schools

166 students reached through bilingual programs



CINCINNATI KING

Celebrating the Queen City's rich music history

Written and directed by **KJ SANCHEZ**

NOV. 3 – DEC. 23, 2018

“Critic’s Pick ... Entertaining ... an important part of Cincinnati history.” — *CityBeat*

A LOCALLY ROOTED WORLD PREMIERE THAT FOSTERED PRIDE AND BUILT EMPATHY

Based on extensive interviews collected from those who were there, written by Latinx playwright KJ Sanchez and commissioned by the Playhouse, *Cincinnati King* shined a spotlight on King Records — America’s first racially integrated recording studio.

More than 11,000 audience members from diverse zip codes, backgrounds and ages gave nightly standing ovations. The incredibly rich (yet widely unknown) musical history of this home-grown revolutionary music label became an ambassador for our city and region!



Philip Paul, legendary King Records session drummer. Photo by Tony Arrasmith/Arrasmith & Associates

WHAT AUDIENCE MEMBERS HAD TO SAY:

“I am white and the play **gave me more understanding** of the sadness and endurance of black artists working in a culture of white privilege and exploitation.”

“I was raised a Jew in a gentile neighborhood... I often was the recipient of anti-semitic bullying. As a result, I often felt a bond with people of color because they were often bullied too. **In *Cincinnati King*, I celebrated both worlds.**”

“I hope this show has a chance to **go beyond Cincinnati and tell this story.**”

“I’ve lived in Cincinnati all my life and did not know the history of King Records. **This is the kind of play I want to see.**”



Neal Benari and Richard Crandle in *Cincinnati King*.



Stanley Wayne Mathis, Ralph Huntley, Terrell Montgomery and Richard Crandle in *Cincinnati King*.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

The Carol Ann and
Ralph V. Haile, Jr.



FOUNDATION

An independent family foundation

THANK YOU to the many organizations and individuals who helped to inform, promote and support our world premiere, and enhance King Records’ celebrations:

**Afrochine
CET**

**Cincinnati USA Music Heritage
Foundation/Herzog Studios
Esquire and Kenwood Theatres
Steve Halper**

**King Studios
Randy McNutt
Philip Paul
Brian Powers
We Have Become Vikings
Otis Williams**

OFF THE GRID

Bringing theatre to young professionals

Off the Grid is where classic theatre, storytelling, pop culture, local businesses and young professionals meet.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

In 2015, the Playhouse began to take theatre off our stages and bring it to where young professionals gather. We continue to refine the program each year, and the series has now become a core part of our programming.

SUCCESS

We have **SOLD OUT** nearly every event this year! We also received requests from local businesses for us to produce Off the Grid-style events to engage their staff and patrons. And, for the first time, we held a sold-out YP Party at the Playhouse (chaired by Playhouse Board member Austin Schiff) in conjunction with a mainstage performance of *The Second City — It's Not You, It's Me!*

WHAT YP ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY:

"I love having the opportunity to experience theatre, film, and art in **new and exciting ways** around the city."

"Just **being a part of the show** was wonderful."

"Fright Night was an **amazing experience!!** Lots of improv and great talent."

2018-19 OFF THE GRID AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EVENTS

Bar Series

Stephen King Murder Mystery Pub Crawl

Brew & View: *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies*

Brew & View: *Moana* Sing-Along

Shadowcast viewing of *Space Balls*

Live Board Game Night with ArtsWave and Rhinegeist

Young Professionals Night at the Playhouse

Performance Series

Three Art After Dark events at the Cincinnati Art Museum

Two Fright Night evenings at the Cincinnati Art Museum

Full-scale production of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* at Newport Aquarium



Attendees at the sold-out Fright Night, held in partnership with the Cincinnati Art Museum.



2019 YP Party guests. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.



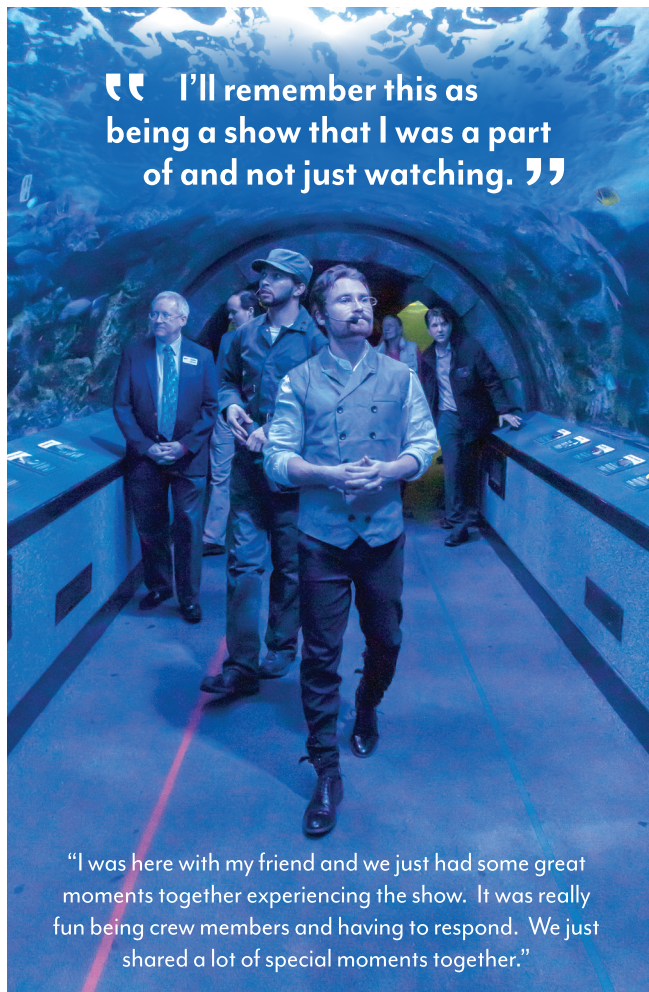
Attendees at the Stephen King Murder Mystery Pub Crawl.



2019 YP Party guests. Photo by Photosphere.

HIGHLIGHT: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

The Playhouse immersed 259 participants directly in the action of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, a one-night-only theatrical adventure staged in rooms throughout Newport Aquarium. In four sold-out performances, attendees followed a thrilling top-secret mission to infiltrate the submarine of the international criminal known as Captain Nemo. The audience was an integral part of the twists and sacrifices that had to be made to carry out the mission successfully. Attendees received exclusive access to Newport Aquarium's animal exhibitions, hallways, backways and hidden spots.



20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA
AT NEWPORT AQUARIUM

MAR 15 **SOLD OUT — 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**
Public · Hosted by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

★ Interested

Mar 15

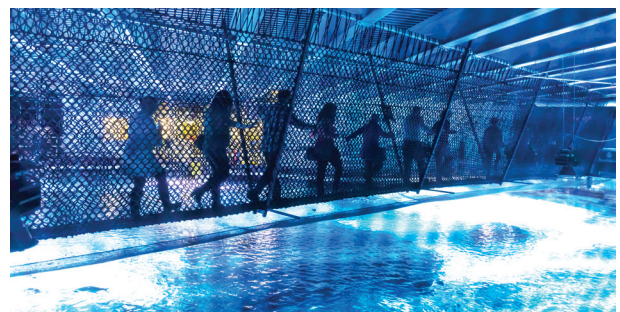
Newport Aquarium
1 Aquarium Way, Newport, Kentucky 41071 [Show Map](#)



“I love theatre on its feet like this ... It was a very incredible, like, in-touch experience to be right up next to some of the actors and seeing the action happen feet from you instead of several seats [away].”



“It was invigorating to see the Aquarium in a different way ... I loved how they used the space and how each part kind of connected to the story.”



TICKET INITIATIVES

Making theatre accessible to new audiences

REMOVING ECONOMIC BARRIERS

The Playhouse maintains several ticketing initiatives to serve our entire community and introduce the joy of live theatre to those who might not otherwise experience it.

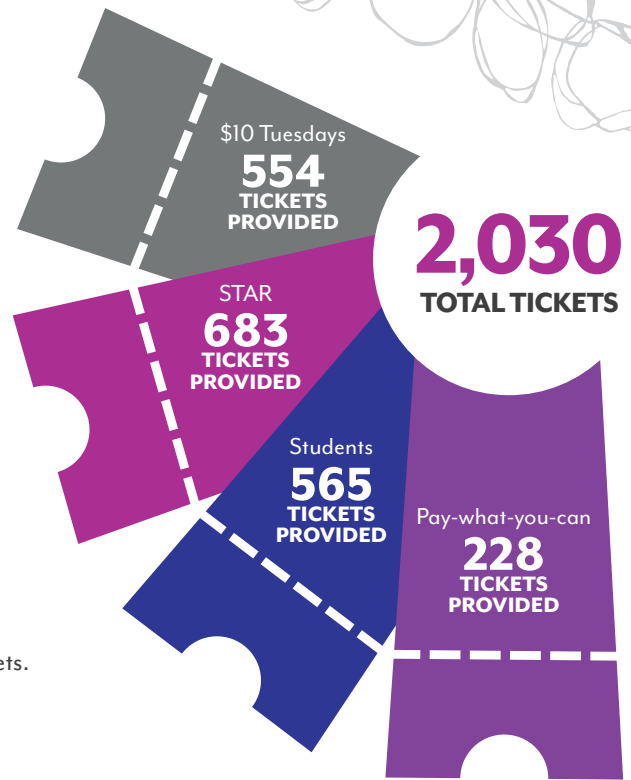
\$10 TUESDAYS — New this year! Tickets sold out each Tuesday during *In the Heights*, with some patrons waiting in line for hours.

SUBSIDIZED TICKETS FOR AREA RESIDENTS (STAR)

— Free tickets are distributed to underserved populations through partner organizations and social service agencies such as Goodwill Industries, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Prospect House and City Gospel Mission.

STUDENT TICKETS — \$10 College Night and \$15 day-of Student Rush tickets.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN NIGHTS — Offered for Marx Theatre productions and promoted primarily to social service agencies.



“As always, the Playhouse provides families and groups with amazing experiences.

I wanted to share the email and photos from the Brighton Center’s visit for the performance of *A Christmas Carol* (this was the family’s first visit to the Playhouse!):

Thank you so much, it was amazing! The play was great and the girls had a blast!

Thanks for the opportunity for this family to enjoy some quality holiday family time.”

— **Most Valuable Kids**



Most Valuable Kids program members with Ken Early from *Misery*.



Students at a student matinee of *A Christmas Carol*.



Patrons lined up hours in advance for our \$10 Tuesday performances of *In the Heights*.



Most Valuable Kids program members attend *A Christmas Carol*.

DIVERSE VOICES

Engaging a broad community with stories that reflect us all

The Playhouse is committed to serving all Greater Cincinnati citizens through inclusive, diverse and celebratory work that reflects our community. One of our greatest achievements has been the range of diversity with playwrights we feature; directors, designers, actors and artists we employ; and works we produce.

BEHIND THE SCENES AND ONSTAGE



Pictured above: Stanley Wayne Mathis, William Carlos Angulo, Helen Q. Huang, Terrell Montgomery, Maribel Martinez, Anita Welch, Nandita Shenoy, Kara Harmon, Yassmin Alers, Richard Crandle, Ayana Workman, Elizabeth Mak, Michael Anthony Williams, Raymond Anthony Thomas, Tony Chiroldes, Doug Brown, Stephanie Goméz, Alyssa V. Gomez, Ryan Alvarado, Kathryn Tkel, Britney Nicole Simpson, Pomchanok Kanchanabanca, Stephanie Anne Johnson, Armando Gutierrez, Jefferson A. Russell

COLOR-CONSCIOUS CASTING



Brett Ryback and Stephanie Anne Johnson in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.*



Andrew Fallaize and Ayana Workman in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley.*

PLAYWRIGHTS



Pictured above: Lauren Gunderson, Jen Silverman, August Wilson, KJ Sanchez, Larissa FastHorse, Chelsea Marcantel, Audrey Cefaly

DIRECTORS



Pictured above: Tracy Brigden, Timothy Douglas, Lisa Portes, May Adrales, Eleanor Holdridge, Laura Kepley

“Erica is a huge *Pride & Prejudice* fan and came [from New York] to see the mixed-race cast specifically. She told them she grew up not seeing herself on screen and stage. There were quite a few tears all around. Please let the casting director know how much all of us appreciated the casting.” — **Cindy Senefeld**

IN THE HEIGHTS

Music and Lyrics by **LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA**

Book by **QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES**

Conceived by **LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA**

JAN. 19 – FEB. 17, 2019

Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony Award-winning *In the Heights*, set in a neighborhood largely populated by people of Spanish-speaking populations, was an instant success. With warmth and humor, the show told universal stories of love, hope and community through the lens of a Latinx perspective. **Today, stories like this are more important than ever.**



Photo of Stephanie Gómez and Ryan Alvarado in *In the Heights* by Michael Brosilow.



Fan art inspired by the Playhouse production of *In the Heights* by Christina Wald.

“Honestly, it personally affected me and my future family on so many levels. Seeing how it affected the community was **incredibly moving and impactful to me.**” — **Patron comment**

“This show demonstrates how people **can knock down walls, not build divisions** among us... It is wonderful to see a show that demonstrates the wealth of culture, caring, and talent that is Latino culture. Thank you so much for bringing this wonderful show to Cincinnati and for doing such a stellar job with it.” — **Lauri A. Aultman, Community Center Director, Corryville Recreation Center**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR



TWITTER

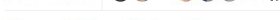
 Kirby S. Neumann
@KirbyCincy

Follow

I've seen shows on Broadway in NYC, the Aronoff and other cities but @CincyPlay's production of "In The Heights" is among the very best I've seen anywhere. Great show. Great cast. A venue where every seat is the best. A must see in Cincinnati!

11:21 PM - 24 Jan 2019

2 Retweets 8 Likes



FACEBOOK

-  Marilú Medina-Nadal Incredible! Lin-Manuel Miranda is a genius. While it's a love poem to our shared Hispanic heritage, the themes of family, community, loyalty are universal. Don't miss it.
Love Reply Message 1w 5
-  Monica A Flynn HIGHLY Recommend seeing this!!!!
Love Reply Message 1w 2
-  Donna Marple This was so good!!
Love Reply Message 1w 2
-  Carolina Yataco-Munlin Great Performance! we were there this past Saturday, loved it! Nick Munlin
Love Reply Message 1w 2
-  Bonnie Binkley I'm going next week, I can't wait!
Like Reply Message 1w 2
-  Suzann Kokoefer One show I wouldn't miss! Outstanding cast, music, dancing and kudos to a live band! 🙌🙌🙌🙌
Love Reply Message 1w 1
-  Nisa Beeler Simons Great show!!
Love Reply Message 1w 1
-  Scott Beck Saw this last night. Wow! Well done.
Love Reply Message 6d 1
-  Tera Kiser This is a must see !!! Brought me to tears and the whole audience to our feet in applause at the end. Thank you playhouse for bringing us this show!!
Love Reply Message 1w 1
-  Bill Seibel Saw it tonight-Spectacular!
Love Reply Message 6d 1
-  Barbara Seibert Fath Great show!
Love Reply Message 1w 1
-  Cindy Browne Just saw this tonight. A super talented cast in this fun musical, with its great energy and heart!
Love Reply Message 6d 1

INSTAGRAM

Seen it twice, cried the first time cause I was overwhelmed with seeing so many brown faces on a Broadway stage! ❤️

BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES

Going beyond the play to form new connections

A NEW COLLABORATION WITH CINCINNATI'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

The *Thanksgiving Play* is the first play written by an Indigenous playwright (Larissa FastHorse, Sicangu Lakota) ever produced by the Playhouse. Given the writer's heritage and her work's reflection on our country's troubling history regarding our native populations, we reached out to representatives and leaders of Cincinnati's Indigenous community. With Larissa's guidance, we asked them how we could best serve their community and reflect their concerns and values.

- We hosted two Playhouse Perspectives events, three post-show discussions with the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition (GCNAC) members, and a community night for the GCNAC community to both engage and educate audiences.
- A large land acknowledgment statement was displayed in the lobby and printed in programs.

"It is our intention to include it in programs going forward. I think a point that needs to be made is that we at the Playhouse don't have a political agenda. **But we do have a strong commitment to making the theatre a welcoming and accessible place to all of Cincinnati's diverse citizens.**"
— Blake Robison, Artistic Director



The Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition (GCNAC) served as our primary partner, with additional support from the American Indian Movement.

PARTNER BACKGROUND

The Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition is a coalition of Native American organizations and individuals, churches, groups and others. The GCNAC exists to preserve and represent the culture and heritage of Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations people; to provide education, advocacy, and support on contemporary Indigenous issues and cultivate knowledge about Native American history in local and regional communities.



Playwright Larissa FastHorse, members of the GCNAC and the cast and creative team of *The Thanksgiving Play*.

"I want to conclude with a big THANK YOU for inviting the GCNAC to the Playhouse. I bought a pair of handmade beautifully crafted earrings to support their group and took literature and talked to them. It was unexpected but very forward-thinking. How else can we evolve into being smarter each day if we are not **open to and exposed to new thoughts and people with whom to have discussions?** ...Thanks again for having a group of important people there to continue my education." — **Nelda Purdon**



Playhouse's Land Acknowledgement Recognizes That Cincinnati Was Built on Shawnee and Myaamia Lands

If you've visited the Playhouse in the Park recently, you may have noticed a new addition to their programs: a "Land Acknowledgement"
BY MACKENZIE MANLEY — MAY 17, 2019 4 PM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a step toward honoring the truth and achieving healing and reconciliation with those Indigenous peoples who were affected most by the Doctrine of Discovery and broken treaties, we acknowledge the traditional Shawnee and Myaamia (Miami) lands on which we now stand, and on which the city of Cincinnati was built.

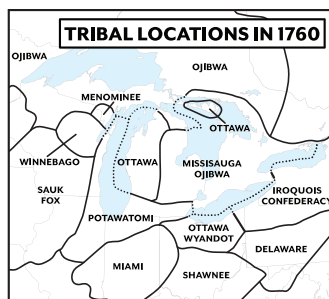
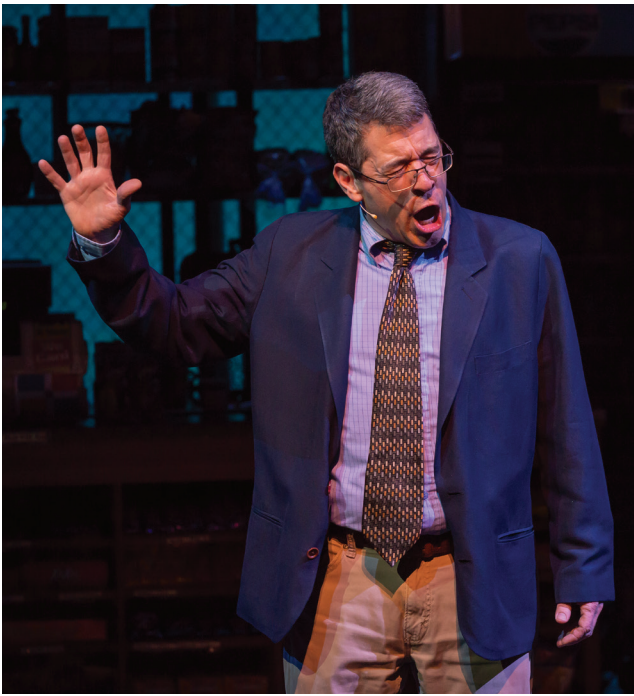


Image: This map displays the numerous Native American language groupings/peoples that inhabited Ohio in 1760. Courtesy George S. May, Pictorial History of Michigan: the Early Years. A John M. Munson Michigan History Fund publication, Michigan Historical Commission, Department of State, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1967. Pp. 239.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

LINDA BUSKEN JERGENS
IN HONOR OF



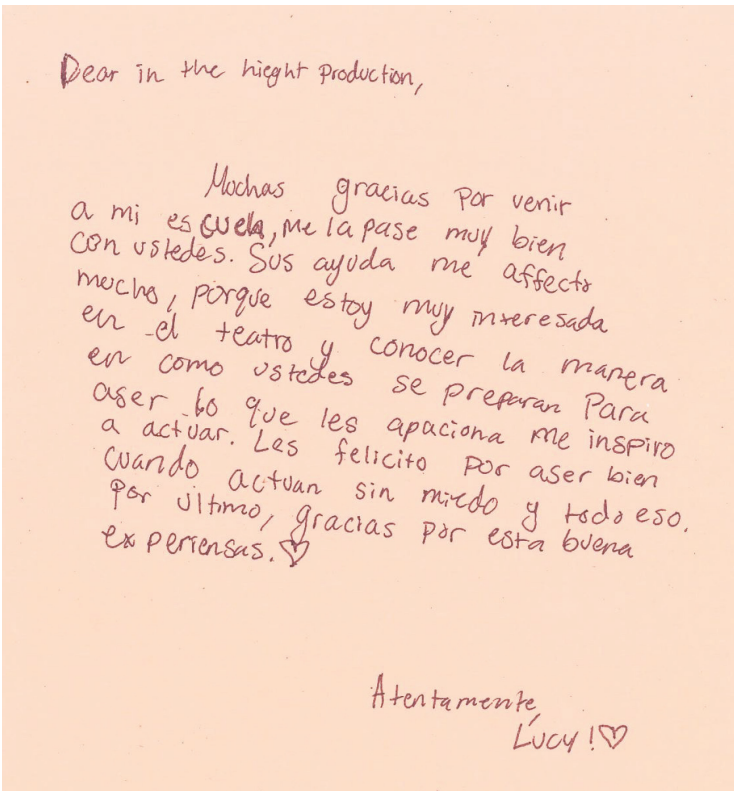


Tony Chiroides in *In the Heights*.

ENGAGING CINCINNATI'S LATINX COMMUNITY

In the Heights created exciting opportunities to partner with new schools like the Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies. Cast member Tony Chiroides (who played the father, Kevin) eagerly participated as a bilingual teaching artist at this language immersion school that has significant Latinx enrollment. We worked with 120 students who came to see the show and received five days of workshops that explored personal storytelling. They rewrote existing songs to tell their own stories that emphasized pride in themselves, their community and their backgrounds. Some students were initially reticent to share. But Tony's presence, the ability to communicate and work in a comfortable language, and the opportunity to translate for the class helped them open up.

ONE STUDENT'S LETTER TO TONY:



Students from the Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies before *In the Heights*.

TRANSLATED:

"Thank you very much for coming to my school. Your help impacted me greatly, because I am very interested in the theatre and learning about the way in which you prepare to use what you are passionate about has inspired me to perform."



PARTNERING WITH CINCINNATI'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

The grand opening of the Holocaust and Humanity Center (HHC) at the Cincinnati Museum Center Union Terminal (Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019) was long-awaited and highly celebrated. The Playhouse worked closely with the HHC to train their docents in storytelling and Q&A best practices to help them prepare for their new space. Through a nine-week writing and performance workshop, we also worked with nine Cincinnati Public School students to help them both understand the Holocaust and develop their own voices.

For the first three weeks of the program, the students learned the fundamentals of storytelling and transformed their own personal stories into monologues. During the following three weeks, the students wrote monologues from the point of view of local Holocaust survivors. The HHC provided video footage of survivors telling their stories, as well as research materials to provide the students context. Once those monologues were complete, the group reconvened to learn how to transition from playwright to performer and performed their works at the HHC's grand opening. The monologues of the students who were unable to perform were given to two acting interns from the Playhouse. The performance received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the audience, museum center staff and especially the survivors and their families.



CPS students perform at the grand opening of the Holocaust and Humanity Center.

“Ben struggled when we began acting the monologues, but by the second rehearsal he had a breakthrough. He let me push him physically and emotionally using acting exercises. He said his whole life he’s felt unsafe expressing emotions anywhere but on the page, and this **experience allowed him express things** he’s pent up safely.” — **CPS teacher of participating student**

A CELEBRATION OF INCLUSION — PRIDE PLAYHOUSE PRIDE TURNS 5

The Playhouse strives to be a place where everyone is welcome — behind the scenes, on the stage and in the audience. Our annual Playhouse Pride event (held Friday, May 31, 2019, in partnership with ArtsWave Pride) honored this commitment through a festive evening of music, refreshment, live theatre and celebration. A portion of the proceeds from the evening’s ticket sales went to support Safe and Supported, a non-profit with the goal of ending and preventing LGBTQIA youth homelessness in Hamilton County.



Board member Susan Ingmire (right) and friends at Playhouse Pride. Photo by Claudia Hershner.

A special thanks to our Pride Event co-chairs Jim Conway and Julia Wesselkamper, and our 2019 Playhouse Pride Sponsors:

**James P. Conway, Jr. and
Richard D. Robertson
Freeman Durham and
Dean Clevenger
Jeb and Nirvani Head
Evans Mirageas and
Thom Dreeze
Prudential - Matching Fund**

**Nick Puncer
Blake Robison and
Connan Morrissey
Jeff Thomas Catering
Bret Schneider and Sean Davis
Julia Wesselkamper and
Julian Johnson
Wow Windowboxes**



Board members and event co-chairs Julia Wesselkamper and Jim Conway with guests at Playhouse Pride. Photo by Claudia Hershner.

OFF THE HILL AND SCHOOL OUTREACH TOUR

Enlivening neighborhoods through the magic of live theatre

THEATRE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Every year, the Playhouse travels “off the hill” to diverse neighborhoods outside of Eden Park to bring the experience of live theatre to students and families across our region. Through Off the Hill, the Playhouse partners with a variety of library branches, community centers and educational institutions to bring our traveling productions to those who might not otherwise get to experience live theatre. Our School Outreach Tours annually bring these performances to over 60 schools across Greater Cincinnati.

LITERARY CLASSICS, OLD AND NEW

Our touring plays are family-friendly adaptations of beloved literary works. They are performed by professional actors from the Playhouse’s Bruce E. Coyle Acting Intern Company and feature full sets, costumes, sound effects and music.

THE JUNGLE BOOK, CYRANO and FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Number of Schools: **80**
 Number of Performances: **89**
 Students in Attendance: **20,105**
 Adults in Attendance: **1,388**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TOTAL = 21,493



OFF THE HILL PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Number of Partners: **43**
 Number of Performances: **43**
 Children in Attendance: **1,488**
 Adults in Attendance: **1,517**

OFF THE HILL ATTENDANCE TOTAL = 3,005

WHAT TEACHERS HAD TO SAY:

“The students were engaged and willing to go on whatever journey you took them. THANK YOU! You made a difference in my students’ lives!”

“Our students come from many walks of life, so being able to see something they could relate to and see people of color will hold students interest as well as the experiences with the fairytales you all bring.”

WHAT STUDENTS LEARNED, IN THEIR WORDS:

“Don’t judge people.”
 “Stand up for what you believe in.”
 “Being a bully hurts everyone.”
 “Poetry can be a beautiful thing.”
 “You should always be yourself.”
 “Love comes in different forms.”
 “How to be a leader.”

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

THE ROBERT AND ADELE SCHIFF FAMILY FOUNDATION



JERRY AND BETSY SHROAT



FIFTH THIRD FOUNDATION



THE P&G FUND OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI FOUNDATION

JOHN C. GRISWOLD FOUNDATION

RON BUNT AND WEI SUN



The cast of *Five Little Monkeys* with Squash Academy of Cincinnati students after the show.



The Jungle Book performance at St. Columban School.

THE LAUNCH PAD PROGRAM

Embracing new methods to engage children with developmental disabilities

The Playhouse is committed to ensuring that all students in Greater Cincinnati have access to the arts, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status or physical abilities. Thanks in part to the generous support of The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation, in 2018-19 we were proud to expand and grow our theatre programs to be inclusive for students with cognitive differences.

LIVE THEATRE ACCESSIBILITY

Students who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other sensory or developmental disabilities often have trouble in theatre environments. Loud sounds, lighting changes and other effects can be disorienting. Because of this, children with sensory challenges are often unable to attend live performances.

To provide more access, each December the Playhouse performs a sensory-friendly matinee of *A Christmas Carol*, making the magic and joy of a live theatre experience a possibility. This year, 230 students and their chaperones were in attendance.

“I learned of the kindness and commitment of the Playhouse community to **bringing amazing theatre experiences to people with disabilities**. Thanks so much!” — **student from Bobbie B. Fairfax School**



A student and teacher from Bobbie B. Fairfax School at the sensory-friendly matinee of *A Christmas Carol*.

“*A Christmas Carol* is always such a terrific experience for my students, and **it’s one most would not have if not for your sensory-friendly performances!** Everything — from watching the show to practicing sitting in a seat, being quiet and giving attention for a length of time — is a learning experience, and I am very grateful we are able to have it each year.” — **Tara Porczak, Silverton Paideia Academy**

SUMMER CAMP INCLUSION

Playhouse summer theatre day camps range from half-day to full-day and from one-week to multi-week experiences for students ages 3 to 18. The Playhouse strives to be open and accessible to all students. However, camp classes largely consist of “hands-on” acting, theatre games and activities, all of which involve a great deal of intangible directions, interpersonal interaction and a certain degree of spatial awareness. This presents a particularly challenging environment for students who have developmental disabilities, as well as increased demands for staff when those students participate.

This year, our brand-new Launch Pad Accessibility Program served as a pilot to integrate students who have developmental disabilities into our traditional theatre camp environment. It is one of the first camps in the region to proactively make day camp an integrated and inclusive experience for students with developmental disabilities.

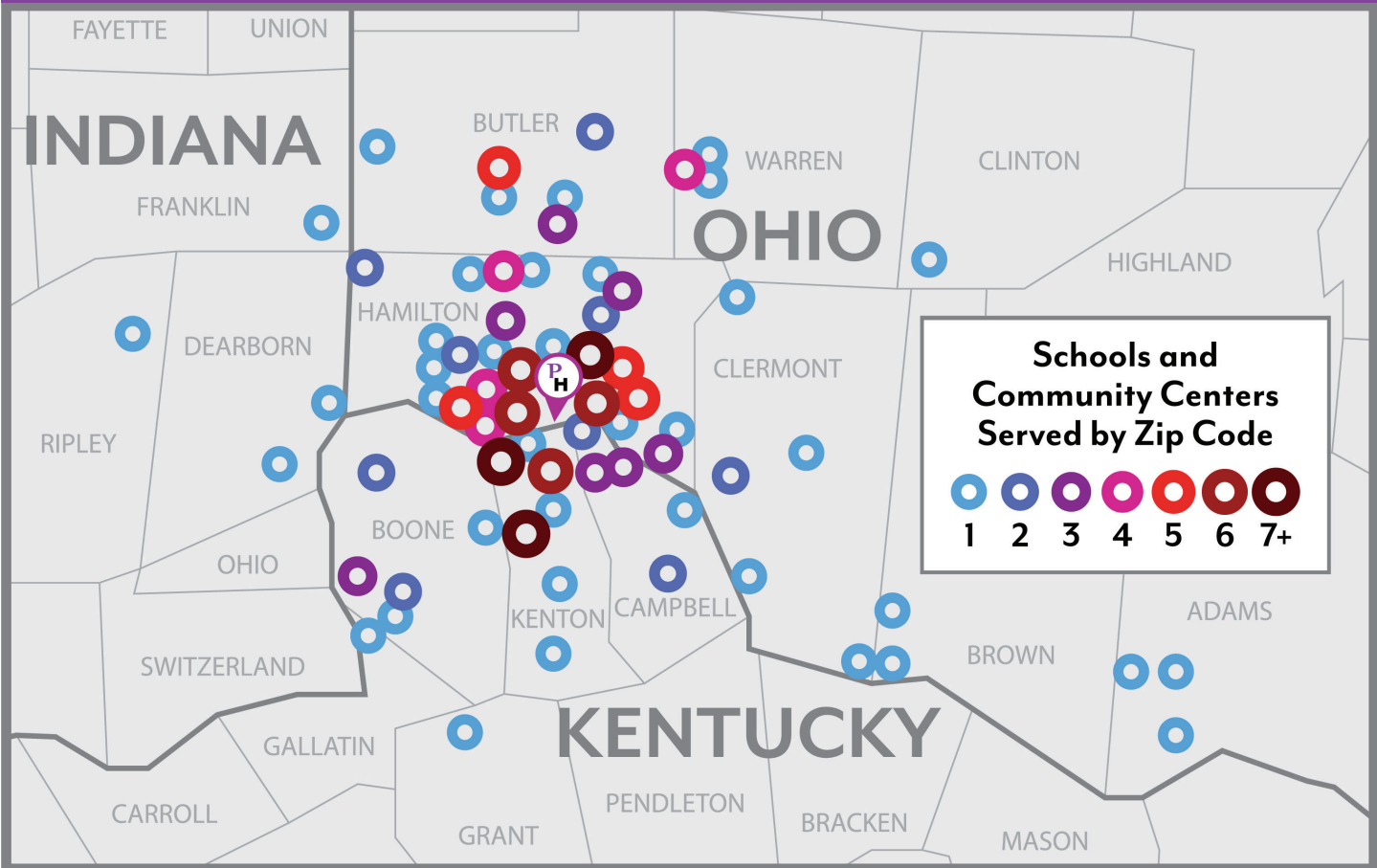


Students enjoying story time at Playhouse's 2019 summer theatre camp. Photo by Mikki Schaffner.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Fueling creativity and learning for students of all ages

The Playhouse programs impacted more than 58,000 youth and students this season.



We believe that the arts can deepen and enhance learning, and provide a mirror through which the audience — no matter their age — sees themselves and the world around them. The arts are essential to developing:

- Communication
- Reading comprehension and literacy
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Responsibility
- Social and cross-cultural skills

EVERYONE HAS A VOICE

We offer an extensive range of education and enrichment programs designed to build confidence and develop a sense of ensemble and community. We also provide classroom teachers resources with interactive and kinesthetic activities that epitomize the joy of literature, history, art and most importantly, the love of learning.

SEASONAL SUPPORT OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

artswave creating community through the arts

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These are just a few highlights from an incredibly successful 2018-19 season!

CLASS EXPANSION

Our acting classes help students find their unique voice in a safe, supportive, ensemble-based environment. Programs for young people ages 3 to 14 focus on individual and collective skill development. Traditionally, our classes have been held at only the Playhouse, but **this year we piloted our after-school classes with partners from around the Tristate.** This was a great success and helped us to reach even more students!

**STUDENTS SERVED
IN 2017-18**



**STUDENTS SERVED
IN 2018-19**



LOCATIONS: Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Montessori Academy of Cincinnati, Mt. Washington Elementary, Blessed Sacrament School, Kennedy Heights Montessori, Uptown Arts

WHAT PARENTS HAVE TO SAY:

“My daughter loves the program. She gets to play intelligently, make new friends, and **try something outside of her natural comfort level that programming at school does not offer.** Thank you so much!”

“I think the nature of how cross-curricular the classes are is my favorite part. **She is having fun, but she is also learning in her own school environment.** I couldn’t be happier.”



Students in an acting class at the Playhouse.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PILOT PROGRAM

Over the past two years, the Playhouse has developed a specialized two-week Workshop for English Language Learners (WELL) at Roberts Paideia Academy. We work to increase students’ confidence and help them successfully transition into their school’s general population. During the workshops, students use both English and Spanish to complete various acting exercises; practice active listening, empathy and teamwork; and use theatrical play to step outside of their comfort zones. They create short scenes in English and Spanish, and use physical movement, vocal technique and teamwork to devise and rehearse scenes that reflect their lives. Finally, they perform their scenes, polishing and presenting their work in both English and Spanish.

PLAYHOUSE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (PEP) PROGRAM GROWTH

Next season, the Playhouse is thrilled to expand our PEP program: Roberts Paideia Academy and the Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies are expected to join Silverton Paideia Academy, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy and Midway Elementary. This in-school residency immerses students in arts education programming, enhances core curriculum studies and improves verbal/literacy skills. Through PEP, we provide a full year of theatre-related programming, customizing unique residencies for each school that utilize art to develop 21st-century skills and teach key academic subjects.

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WHO WE ARE

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is our region's preeminent professional theatre.

WHY WE'RE HERE

We tell stories that entertain, engage, inspire, challenge and connect our audiences.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We are passionate leaders in the advancement of the arts.

We believe audiences deserve productions that are both artistically bold and wildly entertaining.

We create dialogue that resonates with our community and inspires others to join the conversation.

We warmly welcome audiences from all backgrounds, cultures and walks of life to our shows on and off the hill.

We are exuberant ambassadors of our craft, our colleagues and our organization.



New Playhouse rendering by BHPD.

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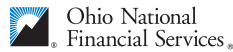
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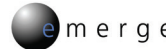
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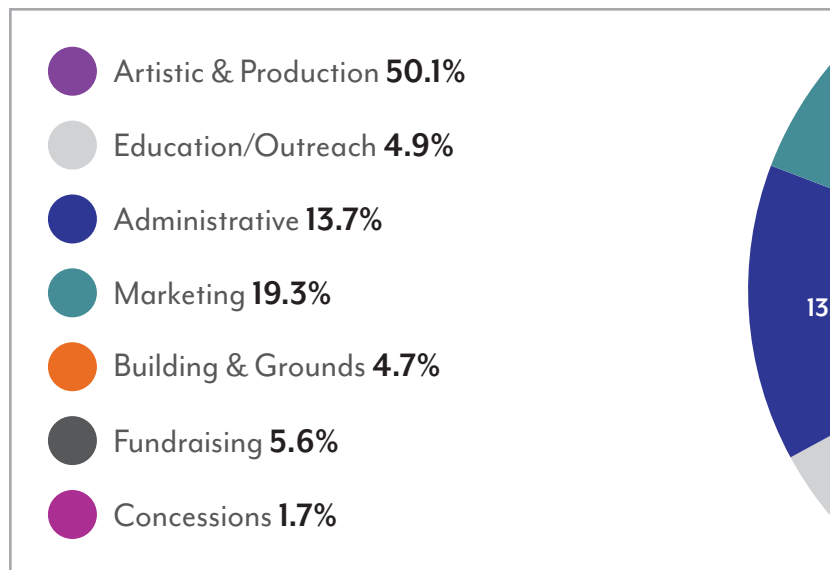
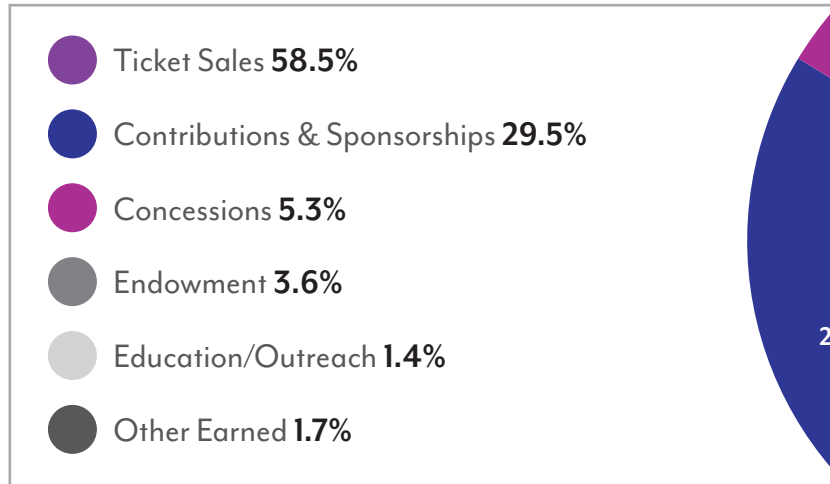
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All Playhouse production photos by Mikki Schaffner. Photos on cover of Terrell Montgomery and Richard Crandle in *Cincinnati King*, the cast of *A Christmas Carol*, and students at summer camp by Mikki Schaffner.