Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization: Village Theatre

Issaquah Address: 303 Front Street North Issaquah, WA 98027

Everett Address: 2710 Wetmore Ave Everett, WA 98201

Contact: (425) 392-2202 https://villagetheatre.org

Organization's General Goals:

Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended theatres, with just over 18,000 Mainstage season subscribers and 220,000 projected total attendance each season. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving over 56,000 young people and their families annually.

Date of Award: 2021 Q3

Level: \$5,001 to \$7,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Village Theatre.



8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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August 30, 2022

Marilyn Sheldon Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund 8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Board,

Thank you so much for your support of Village Theatre's Youth Education programs this year. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, which enables us to do so much for the youth in our community.

To begin with, of course COVID-19 continues to have an impact on Village Theatre's Youth Education program, as reflected in our class and camp enrollment numbers, as well as student participants in our productions, which are comparatively smaller to those we saw in 2019 and earlier. However, they are back to what we classify as a "manageable normal." In addition, the pandemic allowed Village Theatre to plan for better quality experiences for students and staff alike by reducing class sizes slightly, and providing 5-10% fewer classes overall, which increased personal one-on-one attention for our students.

We are pleased to report that funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund helped Village Theatre accomplish many significant achievements over the past year, including:

- Award free and reduced tuition scholarships and free programs to 42 students who participated in camps, classes or productions in Everett over the past year. From September 2021 to August of 2022, we are proud to report that 785 total students participated in the 39 classes and 34 summer camps that we offered in Everett during this period.
- Provide 104 students with the opportunity to perform, create and participate in our three in-person productions, including *Matilda the Musical* in the spring, the Summer Independent Production *Head Over Heels* and the SummerStock production of Disney's *Newsies*. Our production of *Newsies* featured a cast of 33 actors, 14 of which identify as a person of color, and 5 who were lead characters in the show.
- Offer "Pay What You Will" performances: one during the run of *Head Over Heels* and the other during Disney's *Newsies*. We are happy to share that 39 patrons enjoyed the opportunity to "pay what you will" for the performance of *Head Over Heels*, and 234 patrons attended Disney's *Newsies* and enjoyed the show with this discount opportunity.
- Assist 12 actor-creators ranging from 8th-12th grade with the writing and performing of *I'm Doing This*, an original musical created within the KIDSTAGE Originals program using the devising writing method. Devising is when a group of artists collaborate on a singular piece together, rather than dividing the roles up by writer, composer, and so on. *I'm Doing This* received a reading in the first quarter of 2022 and this group of actor-creators have been invited back this upcoming school year to continue revising their script for another planned staged reading.
- Provide several opportunities for students to explore STEM principles as they were integrated into their theatre classes or camps. In our Project: Design Class, students took on costume design and construction challenges each week, and concluded with a "runway" moment to model what they created for the class. Our Fun with Props class gave students the opportunity

to learn hands-on constructions skills in props working alongside Village Theatre staff shop managers. Students made fake blood effects, prop food, and casts of their hands. A messy and engaging hands-on time was had by all!

• Hold creative space within our Arts Without Boundaries affinity space for five youth of color to compose music, write, illustrate, and create. Over 40+ hours throughout the school year, these students met together in-person and virtually, set goals for themselves, held themselves accountable to meet their own deadlines, and shared inspiration with each other. In March of 2022, student Logan Yao hosted Art Without Boundaries: Stories from BIPOC Artists, a speaker panel he envisioned, organized, and produced at the Cope Gillette Theater in Everett. The panel was open to the public and simulcast via Zoom.

This past year also saw Village Theatre establishing new partnerships with other organizations in the community. The Schack Art Center and The Dance School, both located in Everett, shared their spaces and collaborated with us to offer programming beyond our own buildings. These community connections were invaluable to the success of recreational programming for classes and camps.

In addition, a new relationship has been created with Cocoon House, a local organization that is dedicated to empowering youth to break the cycle of homelessness. The first collaboration as part of this new partnership began with Disney's *Newsies*, as many of the Newsies in the show are experiencing homelessness. On July 27, the cast was joined by Kit, Director of Community Engagement at Cocoon House, and Sheena, an advocate who was previously unhoused. Kit and Sheena shared insight and resources that deepened the cast's connection to the living conditions of their characters. In addition, complimentary tickets were provided to Cocoon House residents to join us for the show on August 24, and Kit and Melissa, a Host Home Case Manager at Cocoon House, facilitated a 30-minute talkback with the audience following the performance where they, along with two of our actors, Roze Hsu (Jack Kelly) and Malia Lapanja (Crutchie), discussed the collaboration the *Newsies* company had with Cocoon House. We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to it continuing and expanding next year.

Village Theatre's goal is to have a Youth Education program that is a community of belonging where everyone is seen for their unique identity and can experience a safe and brave space that incorporates culturally reflective and responsive curriculum and programming. This goal has led us to a Youth Education staff that is more representative of our whole community, with 40% being persons of color, and over 50% of our KIDSTAGE teaching artists and over 40% of our production teams being persons of color. In addition, we were excited to welcome Neve Mazique as our disability consultant for Disney's *Newsies*. Neve assisted the production by providing guidance to the production team on accessibility practices, especially when it came to properly casting the role of Crutchie. Neve helped the team approach the character with care and accuracy, as well as provided guidance to the production team on how to approach the material in the script through an accessibility lens.

We are so grateful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, which allows Village Theatre to continue to provide accessible Youth Education programs to young people and families in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kati Nickerson Director of Youth Education & Community Outreach

Frank Stilwagner Director of Advancement

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