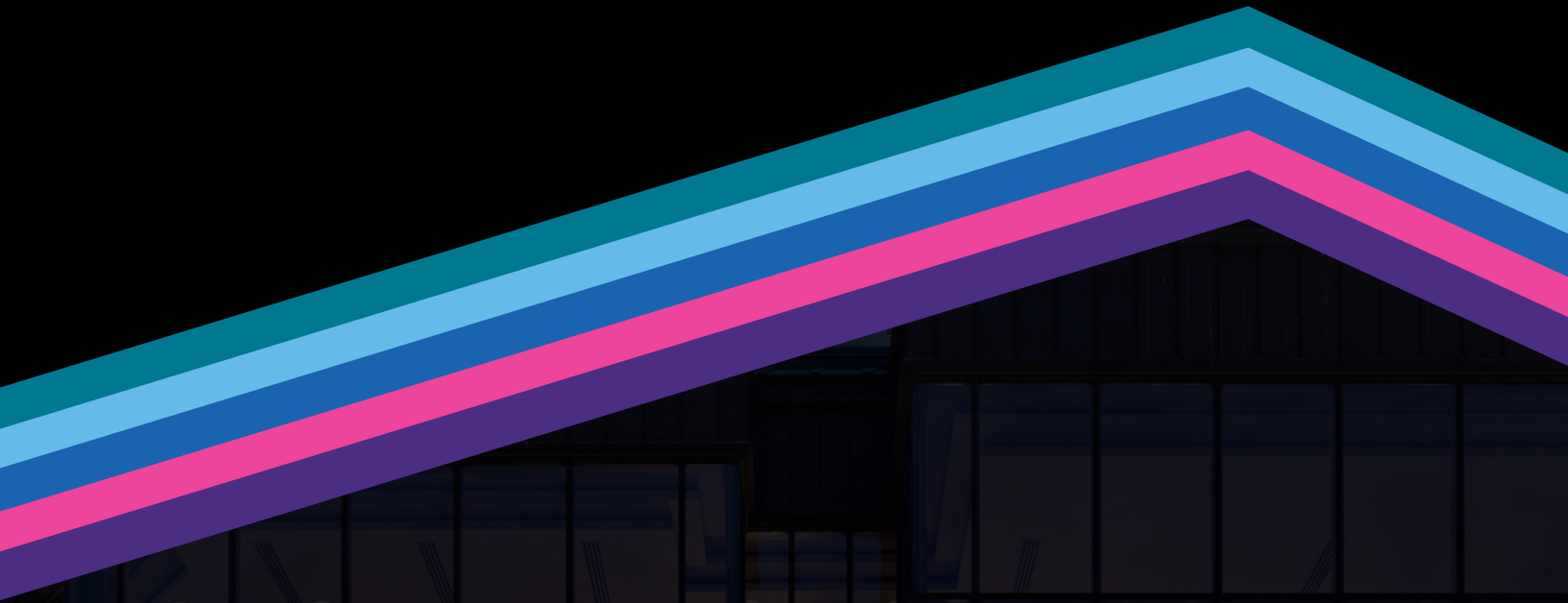




ORDWAY



24

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

25

ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

ORDWAY

Mission

To be a cornerstone of exceptional artistic, educational, and cultural experiences.

Vision

A world where storytelling and artistic experiences create a sense of belonging and shared humanity.

24-25 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



What an unforgettable 24-25 season. Thank you! From start to finish, this season was filled with heartfelt moments and many highlights – from Broadway musicals like *Ain't Too Proud* and *Legally Blonde* to concerts from legends like *DRUMLine Live* and Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter-composer Ben Folds. We also presented new collaborations, including a concert version of Terence Blanchard's landmark opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* with our fellow Arts Partners – Minnesota Opera, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Schubert Club.

This season was more than a schedule of events. It was a shared experience that brought our community together like never before to experience art at the Ordway. We were honored to host more than 217,000 people throughout the year – an 11 percent increase over the last season. This includes more than 40,000 adults and children who came together for our holiday show, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and our third sold out engagement of the exhilarating musical *SIX*. This is good news for the Ordway and even better news for downtown Saint Paul and the region, as we know our work drives economic impact and contributes to the vitality and vibrancy of our community.

We also celebrated the 25th Flint Hills Family Festival, which offers free and low-cost performances, art-making activities, and more on Ordway stages and in and around Rice Park. We have welcomed more than one million students, teachers, and families since the festival began in 2001.

The arts bring us together, creating a sense of belonging and shared humanity. Community is centered in our work at the Ordway. As we launched a year-long celebration of key milestones in January 2025, including the 40th anniversary of the Ordway, we are reminded of the many people who have engaged and brought the arts to life on and off our stages. Thank you to the audiences, donors, staff, partners, and more who contribute their time and resources to enrich the arts and our community. We look forward to sharing experiences with you for many more years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Christopher Harrington | Ordway President & CEO

24-25 LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



In these pages, we recount many memorable performances at the Ordway over the past season. Hundreds of thousands of arts enthusiasts from Minnesota and beyond walked through our doors and enjoyed Broadway musicals, concerts, and more.

These moments of coming together — for moving, joyful, cathartic arts experiences — were made possible thanks to our generous supporters. It is our honor to recognize and thank these many people and organizations in this report. Their contributions big and small helped us bring world-class artists to our stages.

We are especially thankful for how this generosity has helped more young people access the arts this season. Early arts experiences make impressions that follow children throughout their lives. Tens of thousands of students, teachers, and families from across Minnesota were able to see performances as part of our Flint Hills Family Festival and other school shows throughout the year.

The arts currently face many challenges. Your support by purchasing a ticket or contributing is more than financial. It's a statement that you believe in the power of the arts. It also uplifts local arts and culture, education, and economic development. Thank you for your support of the Ordway.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Randolph". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kimberly A. Randolph | Board Chair

Photo: Corey Saffner



24-25 SEASON

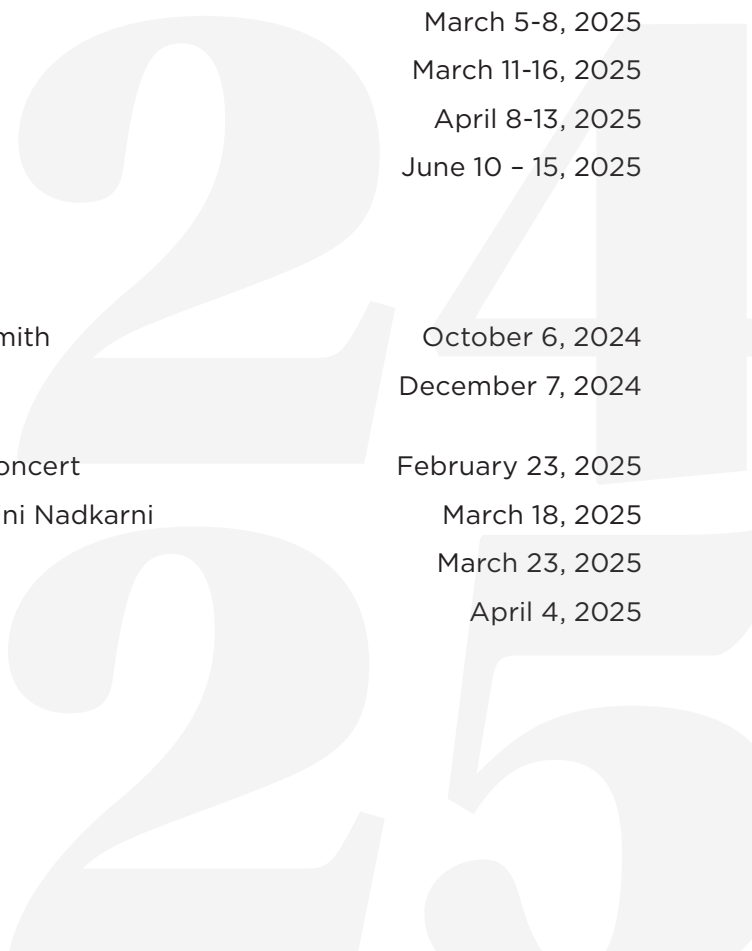
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

ORDWAY MUSIC THEATER

<i>SIX</i> the Musical	July 16-28, 2024
Samara Joy	September 14, 2024
Ben Folds: <i>Paper Airplane Tour</i>	October 6, 2024
<i>Ain't Too Proud</i>	October 8-13, 2024
<i>The Little Mermaid</i>	December 3-29, 2024
<i>DRUMLine Live!</i>	February 21, 2025
<i>Come From Away</i>	March 5-8, 2025
<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	March 11-16, 2025
<i>Mean Girls</i>	April 8-13, 2025
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	June 10 - 15, 2025

ORDWAY CONCERT HALL

Nat Geo Live: Wild Wolves with Doug Smith	October 6, 2024
String Queens "Our Favorite Things"	December 7, 2024
Arts Partnership Presents: <i>Fire Shut Up In My Bones</i> : Excerpts in Concert	February 23, 2025
Nat Geo Live: Roots to Canopy with Nalini Nadkarni	March 18, 2025
CAL: <i>Beatles Abbey Road</i>	March 23, 2025
CAL: <i>U2 Joshua Tree</i>	April 4, 2025





24-25 RENTALS

*Nyttu Chongo presents <i>Phulani</i>	July 26, 2024
Mayor Carter's 2025 Budget Address	Aug 13, 2024
*St. Paul Almanac presents <i>Listen! A Night of Poetry and Music</i>	September 7, 2024
Dakota Cooks presents Charles Lloyd	October 27, 2024
Dakota Cooks presents Leo Kottke w/ Nellie McKay	December 5 2024
Cantus presents <i>Christmas with Cantus</i>	December 20, 2024
39th ANNUAL MN State MLK Jr Celebration	January 20, 2025
*One Voice Mixed Chorus presents <i>Time & Trans(formation)</i>	January 26, 2025
Cantus presents <i>Cantus and The Swingles</i>	March 7, 2025
Bach Society of Minnesota presents <i>Mozart Requiem</i>	March 9, 2025
Entertainment Events presents <i>Sister's Easter Catechism</i>	March 30, 2025
Dakota Cooks presents Sona Jobarteh	March 31, 2025
*Border CrosSing presents <i>Oceana</i>	April 5, 2025
VocalEssence presents <i>Sacred Voices</i>	April 6, 2025
Funny Asian Women Kollektive presents <i>The FAWK Hmong (+Friends) Super Show</i>	April 19, 2025
Friends of the Saint Paul Public Libraries presents <i>The 37th Annual MN Book Awards</i>	April 22, 2025
Entertainment Events presents <i>Girls Night: The Musical</i>	May 10, 2025
*TC Gay Men's Chorus presents <i>Leading Ladies: Divas of Broadway</i>	June 21-22, 2025
*Somali Museum presents <i>The Star of Unity Concert</i>	June 28, 2025

*This performance made possible in part by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation



ARTS EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

23 school performances

22,108 students attended

51 Community Engagement Beyond the Stage activities — in School or in Community

5,781 people served by Community Activities

9,300 served via YouTube

With additional served at the Flint Hills Family Festival public performances — Ordway served **45,166** students, families, and community members.

APPRECIATION FROM LOCAL TEACHERS

“The Ordway’s programming is incredibly valuable to our students, providing them with enriching experiences that celebrate a variety of cultures through engaging and educational performances. These performances not only expose our students to diverse artistic expressions but also deepen their understanding of different traditions, histories, and perspectives. The opportunity to witness such dynamic storytelling through music, dance, and theater fosters curiosity, empathy, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts. We are truly grateful for the Ordway’s commitment to bringing these meaningful experiences to our students.”

Falcon Heights Elementary School, Falcon Heights, MN

“The value of the Ordway’s programming is priceless. The students light up when they walk through the doors with just the space let alone the performance. We always leave with such great curriculum ideas and educational takeaways for the students. It’s always such a wonderful day for them!”

Face to Face Academy, Saint Paul, MN



Photo: JDigi Made Photography

GREENROOM

GreenRoom is a signature paid Ordway fellowship program that invests in underrepresented artists and celebrates their talents—so that they might impact and thrive in the world of musical theater.

The 2024 program provided an intensive and collaborative curriculum for nine actors, singers, and dancers committed to expanding their skill set as musical theater artists.

In addition to the five GreenRoom Faculty, the six-week summer training engaged 10 Master Artists, 23 Guest Artists and Speakers, including GreenRoom Alumni.

FELLOWS

- Kyle Camay
- Myra Curry
- Keira Kowal Jett
- Demetrius McClendon (Imagine Joy)
- Heidi Mintz
- Ninchai Nok-Chiclana
- Aja Parham
- Ebony Ramquist
- Bri Salhus

FACULTY

- Rush Benson
- Denzel Belin
- Tiffany Cooper
- Natalia Romero Arbeláez
- Jared Miller



Photo: Tommy Sar

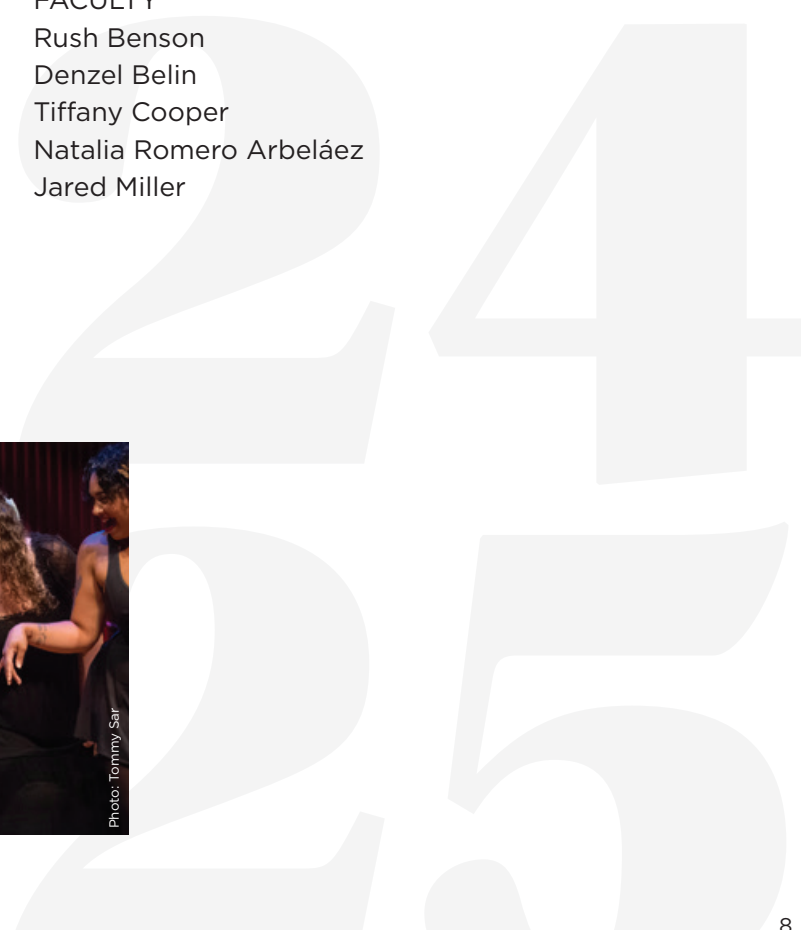




Photo: Jason Niecle

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

Disney's *The Little Mermaid* filled the Music Theater December 3-29 with **32** performances and one school matinee.

As we wrapped up 2024, we welcomed over **40,000** theater lovers to celebrate the holidays at the Ordway in the magical undersea world of *The Little Mermaid*. This timeless musical is filled with iconic music, lavish costumes and sets, and the heartwarming story everyone knows and loves.

The Ordway team spent countless hours bringing holiday magic to the Ordway. Long strings of lights, beautiful decorations, real seashells, and hundreds of feet of ribbon decorated the front doors, foyer and lobbies, and our magnificent holiday tree.



Photo: Jason Niecle



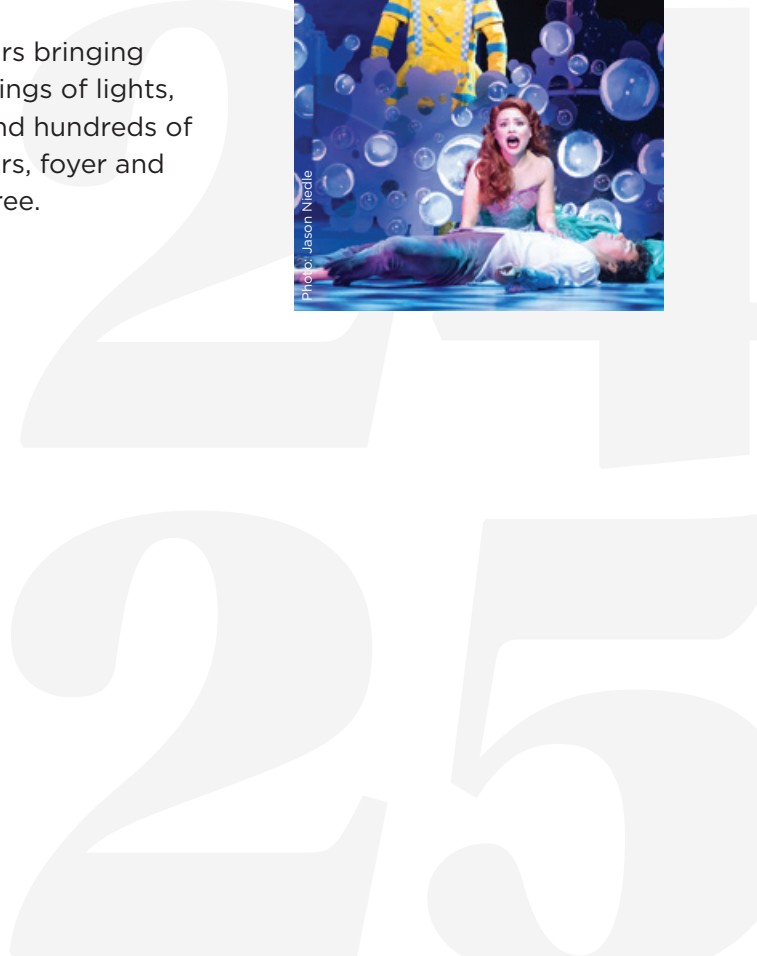
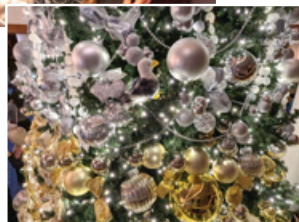
Photo: Jason Niecle



Photo: Jason Niecle



Photo: Peter Myers





ORDWAY RUBY GARDEN GALA

JUNE 26, 2025

The Ordway Ruby Garden Gala welcomed over 400 guests in celebration of the Ordway's milestone anniversaries, its enduring role in Minnesota's arts landscape, and the evening's Honorary Chair, Phyllis Rawls Goff.

Attendees were treated to performances by Abby Mueller, who portrayed Jane Seymour from the original Broadway cast of *SIX*, Twin Cities talent, and even a puppet joined co-hosts Kevin McCollum and Frank Vascellaro. A live auction, fund-a-need, assortment of games, and culinary delights rounded out the evening.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees and supporters, the Ruby Garden Gala raised over \$581,000 for a wide variety of Ordway artistic offerings, including accessible arts education programs that leave a lasting impact on thousands of schoolchildren. Proceeds from the event also benefit the Arts Partnership—Minnesota Opera, Ordway, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Schubert Club—and the collective efforts to maintain and care for the Ordway venue and connect all members of our community to the performing arts.





Photo: Laura Alpizar



Photo: Elizabeth Flores



FLINT HILLS FAMILY FESTIVAL

MAY 28-31, 2025

Celebrating the **25th Annual Flint Hills Family Festival** this year, we welcomed over 22,400 children and their families to downtown Saint Paul to experience incredible music, dance, and theater performances, art exhibitions, storytelling, games and hands-on art activities.

- Low-cost performances in the Ordway including 360 ALLSTARS, Nooma, an opera for babies, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, and Ada Twist Scientist
- Free entertainment on multiple stages in Rice Park and Landmark Plaza with **271** local artists presenting **39** performances
- Dozens of kid-focused art making activities by a new record of **29** community partners
- **Nine** face painters, **seven** balloon artists, and **three** henna artists to meet demand
- Intriguing public art in and around the Ordway, Landmark Center and Rice Park
- **259** dedicated volunteers providing **1,607** hours of service and support for the Festival

SURVEYS OF FESTIVAL AUDIENCES FOUND:

100%

said that “Attending the Festival created a sense of joy and wonder.”

99%

agreed with this statement “The Festival is welcoming to individuals like me”

99%

said that they would attend another Festival or other Ordway event. Those who said no do not live in the area.

25 PIANOS for our **25TH** YEAR!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



IN COMMUNITY: GRUPO BELLA X LOS ALEGRES BAILADORES

Los Angeles musicians Grupo Bella and Minnesota dance ensemble Los Alegres Bailadores joined together for a panel discussion and arts jam at Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center. Led by Sally Award recipient and Founder of Los Alegres Bailadores Rebecca Moran Cusick, the evening uplifted artistry, explored cultural traditions of Mexican folklore, and shared perspectives about being Latina in the performing arts.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL VISIT

Highlighting our Flint Hills Family Festival performers, Festival on the Road continues to be a special experience. 2025 Grammy-winning Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band dazzled in the Star Studio at Children's Hospital. In their pre-performance engagement, Lucky read a book about paletas (a Mexican popsicle treat) and blended bilingual indie pop songs with heart, humor, and high energy fun-streaming into all the patient rooms for children and staff to enjoy.





Photo: Laura Alpizar



ACCESS TICKETS

Broadway at the Ordway
Ordway Presents
Flint Hills Family Festival
Arts Partnership Concerts
Ordway Inside Out

Access tickets are planned distribution of Ordway tickets that are subsidized, sold at highly discounted rates, or provided as complimentary tickets.

All school performance shows are subsidized for access, priced at \$4 or special, highly discounted \$0.25 tickets.

The Ordway is committed to providing unique experiences and access to groups throughout our community who may not otherwise have an opportunity to participate. The Ordway has several established relationships through Education and Marketing with local organizations, including Tickets for Kids, Project Success, Boys and Girls Club, HopeKids, and VetTix. These relationships allow us to offer complimentary tickets directly to young people, veterans, and their families who have the greatest need.

The Ordway offers discounted tickets for Educator Rush and College Student Rush for select performances.



Photo: Dan Norman





VOLUNTEERS

During the 2024-2025 season, **405** individuals provided **4,301** hours of service to our guests and community — serving as ushers, greeting school buses during school performances and Flint Hills Family Festival, joining our Marketing team at outreach events, taking photos at lobby photo opportunities during events, and much much more.



DeVonna DeShaw, volunteering since 2023

“I have volunteered for a year as an usher at the Ordway. I love all parts of it. The pre-shift humor from the lead supervisors starts off every shift with a fun beginning. Making connections with patrons, guests, co-volunteers and employees is so rewarding. And topped off by being in the beautiful facility both the Music Theater and the Concert Hall. Thank you for allowing me this gift of volunteering some place so special!”



Special Thanks to the following

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From July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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‡ In remembrance

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The Ordway is grateful for each and every person listed on the following pages. Through their investments, you are able to enjoy a season filled with exciting, uplifting, and entertaining live performance. The individuals listed here made contributions between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

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The Ordway is deeply grateful to the following individuals for their generous annual contributions of \$1,500 or more in support of artistic, arts education, and community engagement programs, and maintenance of the Ordway.

\$50,000+

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\$500-\$1,499

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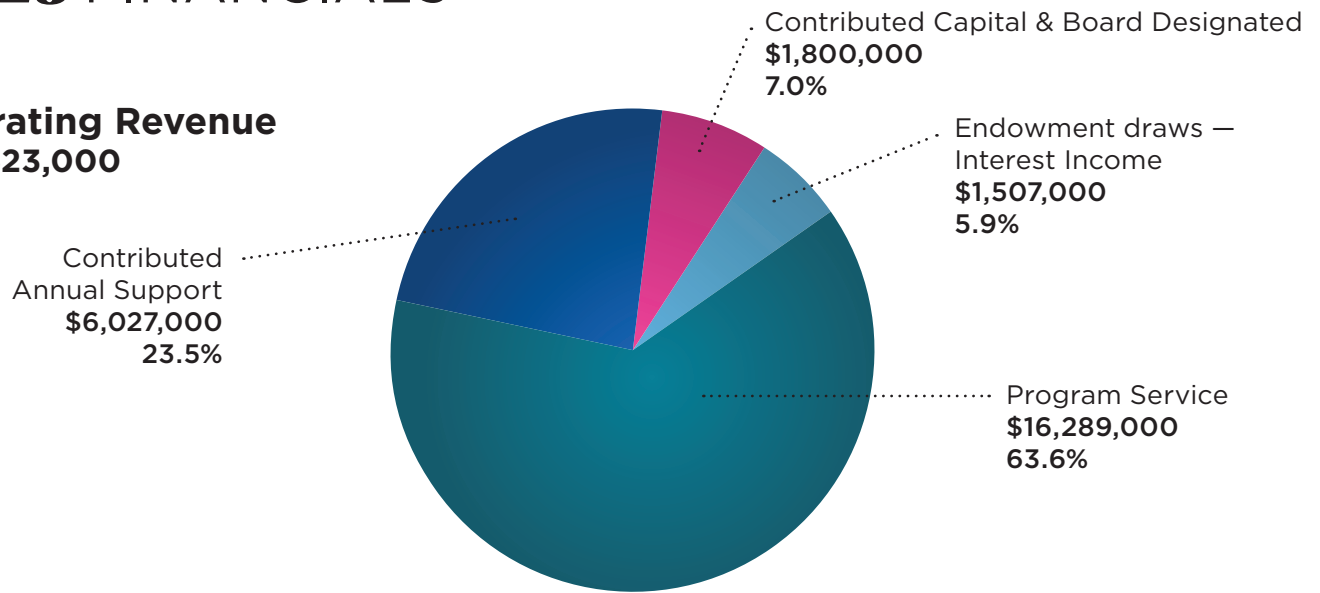
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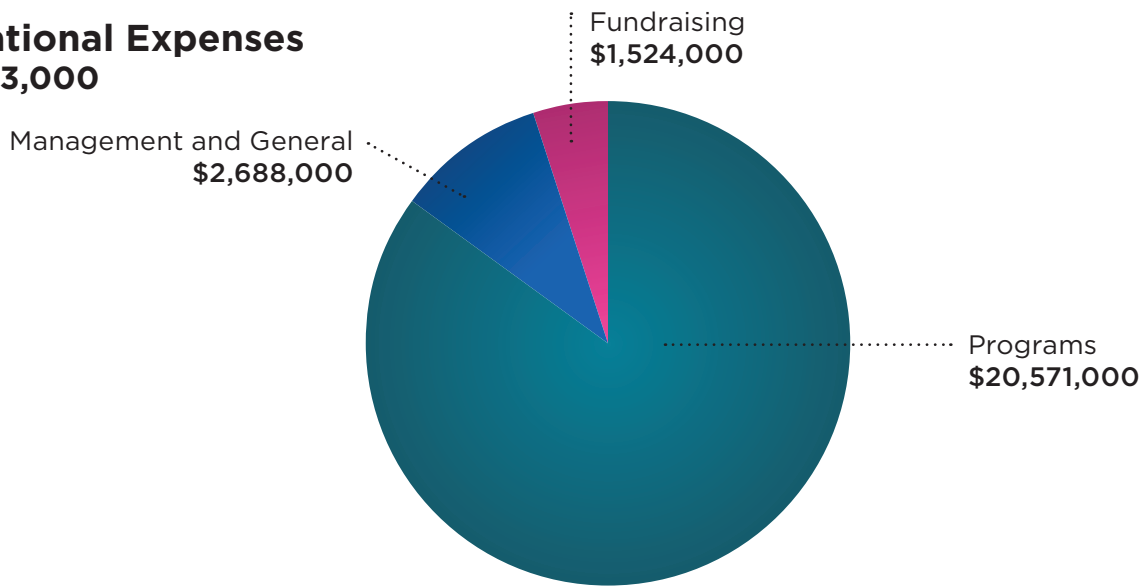
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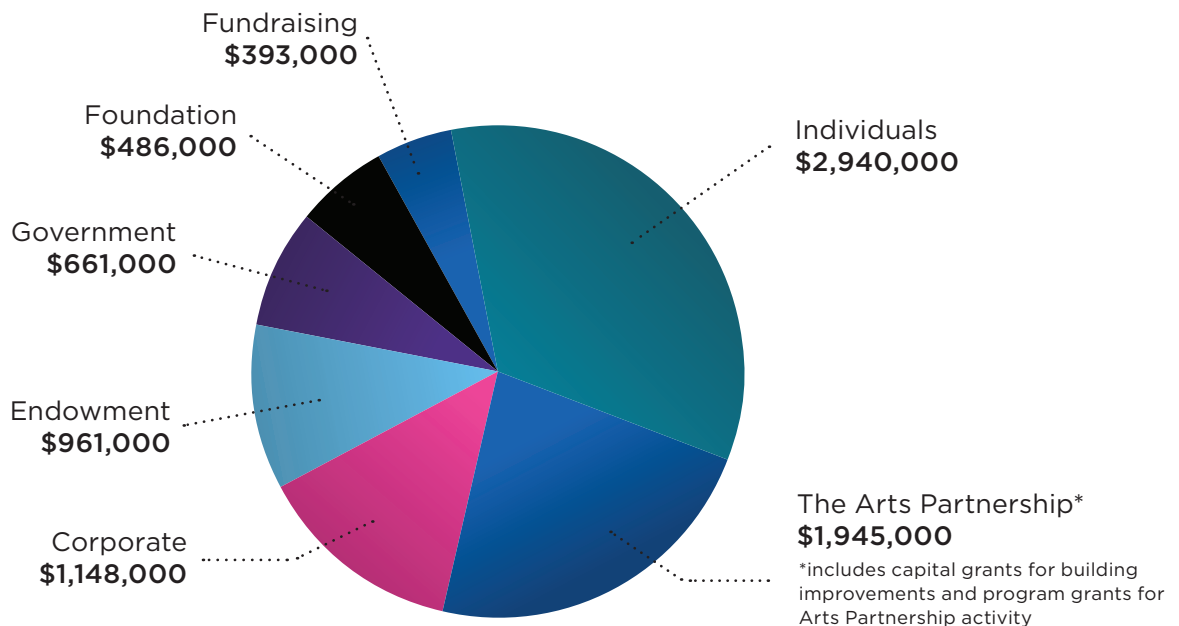
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