SHELDON

Arts Without Borders

2023 | 2024 SEASON

ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest and support of The Sheldon. This past fiscal year, ending June 30, 2024, was extraordinary, filled with creativity, connection, and growth. Together, we celebrated the power of music and art to inspire, educate, and strengthen our community.

The Sheldon has been at the heart of St. Louis's creative community, bringing world-class concerts, provocative visual arts exhibitions, and robust education offerings to our neighbors. With over 300 events each year, it would be impossible to name them all here, but highlights include a stunning season opening performance by Rhiannon Giddens, Brian DePauli's exhibition of large landscapes that engulfed you into his world, the launch of our new STEAM initiative—Sheldon Sound Studio—and so much more.

About 100,000 people visit our spaces each year, creating a meaningful impact. The Sheldon strives to make each visit a memorable experience because we believe the arts have the potential to inspire, heal, nurture, and unite. We work tirelessly to ensure that everyone has a chance to take part in the conversation and inspiration that The Sheldon provides.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support allows The Sheldon to remain a welcoming space for all, offering music, art, and education to our community. Every contribution is a vote of confidence in our mission and a commitment to making St. Louis a more vibrant and connected metropolitan area.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Sheldon family. We look forward to creating more memorable experiences together in the year ahead.

Peter Palermo Executive Director

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Sheldon continually strives to provide a culturally rich experience for all. We pair the concert calendar and art exhibitions with exceptional programming to enhance our community's understanding of and appreciation for the work. We are pleased to share and celebrate some highlights of our 23-24 Season of Curiosity. Thank you for being an integral part of all that we do.

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CONCERTS

An acoustic treasure in the heart of St. Louis' Grand Center Arts District, The Sheldon invites audiences to experience renowned musicians worldwide in our historic and intimate 700-seat concert hall. The Sheldon hosts more than 30 concerts each season across five unique series, plus a variety of special concerts. The season is carefully curated to ensure that audiences experience artists representing a variety of genres, including jazz, folk, world, classical, and other music.

In 2023-2024, The Whitaker World Music Concert Series continued to surprise and delight. Constantly pushing musical boundaries, banjo legend Béla Fleck teamed up with tabla master Zakir Hussain, and double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer. Blending the sounds of bluegrass for Fleck, Indian classical music for Hussain, and Western classical music for Meyer created a playful synergy that electrified the hall. One of the highlights was the addition of Rakesh Chaurasia, who plays bansuri, an Indian bamboo flute. The pre-show curtain talk featured the musicians who graciously shared their collaboration process.



Pre-Show Curtain Talk I The Sheldon I 2024



Béla Fleck I The Sheldon I 2023







Pattie Chalmers: Mudmaid Museum I The Sheldon I 2023-2024

GALLERIES

Our galleries feature artists from around the world and showcase regional emerging artists in two free exhibits each year. We seek to highlight new and often unheard voices in and outside the St. Louis community to offer inspiration and start thoughtful conversations.

Pattie Chalmers' Mudmaid Museum exhibition invited us to explore folklore and legends that blur the lines between myth and reality. Chalmers created a museum of catfish-like beings, referred to as "Mudmaids," believed to exist in the Mississippi River in the distant past. This concept of a museum within a gallery played with definitions of fact and fiction, featuring "artifacts" like books, woodcarvings, photographs, rag dolls, diaries, letters, and whisker oil bottles, all created by Chalmers. The exhibition appealed to visitors of all ages; we created a student-centric experience where, after seeing the exhibition, students were invited to discuss ideas around folklore, myths, and the role of museums today, and worked in groups to create their own mythical creatures.



Fall Gallery Opening I The Sheldon I 2023



Fall Gallery Opening I The Sheldon I 2023



EDUCATION

The Sheldon is dedicated to making music education accessible to all students in St. Louis and beyond. We offer a broad portfolio of programs that impact over 30,000 students annually through live music, in-school programs, and hands-on musical direction. Our education programs include one-of-a-kind educational concerts, our resident All-Star Chorus, STEAM programs delivered directly to schools, and the instrument donation program that supplies refurbished instruments to schools throughout the region.

Las Cafeteras presented an exuberant, bilingual concert to a sold-out school audience, many with Hispanic populations in the student body. The Day of the Dead show captivated students' imaginations with costumes, dance, technology, and traditional and new music. Band leaders Hector Flores and Denise Carlos decoded symbolism in the ofrenda and traditions from their Mexi-Cali backgrounds. Participating schools noted the remarkable experience their students had experiencing their culture being represented and celebrated on stage.



Las Cafeteras I The Sheldon I 2023

Community Ofrenda I The Sheldon I 2023

COMMUNITY

The Sheldon welcomes everyone in our community to experience arts and culture. From free family day events that engage people of all ages in music and visual art to Fan Club events that explore other cultures to artist talks and curtain talks, we seek opportunities to bring people together and inspire lifelong learning.

The Sheldon piloted a new program-"Fan Club"-designed to engage the community in a deeper cultural understanding tied to the artists on our stage. The performances of Cuban musicians Pedrito Martinez and Eliades Ochoa (of Buena Vista Social Club fame) inspired an evening we called "Buena Vista Fan Club" that highlighted Cuban culture. People of all ages gathered in The Sheldon's ballroom to enjoy Cuban cuisine from locally-owned Havana's restaurant, dance lessons in salsa and cha-cha-cha, and music from Gypsy Social. Fan Club attendees reported that the event was community-building and joyful.

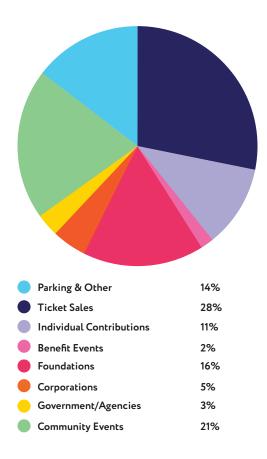


FINANCIAL DATA

BALANCE SHEET

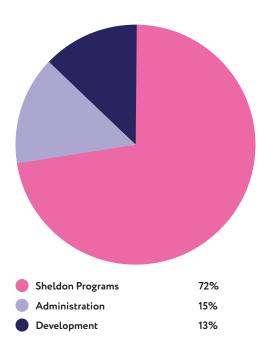
ASSETS		6/30/2024
Cash Investments Receivables Promises To Give (Short Term) Inventory Prepaid Expenses TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS Property and Equipment (Net) Promises To Give (Long Term) Right of Use Assets - Operating Leases Assets Restricted for Permanent Investment	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	3,768,789 1,822,378 87,073 521,849 31,858 67,424 6,299,371 12,106,907 515,465 16,948 1,066,690
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	20,005,381
LIABILITIES		
Current maturities of long-term debt Current portion of operating lease liabilities Payables & Accrued Expenses Advance Deposits & Deferred Revenue TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ \$ \$ \$	45,606 8,767 238,917 220,016 513,306
Operating Lease Liabilities Long-Term Debt TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ \$ \$	8,181 0 521,487
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions With Donor Restrictions TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ \$ \$	13,187,557 6,296,337 19,483,894
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	20,005,381

REVENUE



REVENUE & EXPENSE STATEMENT EXPENSES

REVENUE		6/30/2024
EARNED REVENUE Ticket Sales Community Rentals, Beverage, Parking CONTRIBUTED REVENUE Individuals Corporations Foundations Government/Agencies Special Events Endowment Interest & Other TOTAL REVENUE	** ******	1,220,083 1,139,060 356,179 142,484 609,783 132,501 485,275 426,567 4,511,932
EXPENSES		
Sheldon Programs Administration Development *Note - Expenses include Loss on Disposal of Property TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ \$ \$	3,270,599 658,601 581,977 4,511,177
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$	755



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