

TIBBITS

TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND
ARTS COUNCIL, INC.



2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

For the fiscal year October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015
Annual Meeting - January 28, 2016



Additional Non Profit information is available on Guide Star: www.guidestar.org

Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W Chicago Street

Our Mission



*The mission of the
Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council
is to engage all in the support of arts, culture
and the preservation of
the historic opera house.*

*The vision
of the Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts
Council is to be a center of arts and culture.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, Members, Volunteers and Staff:

As we compile an annual report, I believe it is important not only to look at what we have done and where we are, but what we project to be in the future.

For an organization to be viable and a contributing member to its society, it cannot remain stagnant but must be progressive in its thoughts and in its actions. To that end, we are in the planning process to improve the physical facilities, and grant the community the best physical performance space available within our budget and within our goals.

The future can be as rosy as we will allow it to be. However we cannot look forward without examining our past and recognize the achievements we have made to date, and the success of our program in the last year. A fair examination of our physical well-being, including the examination of our financial well-being, reveals we have survived and appear to be treading water rather than making financial progress. Our entertainment series appears to be headed in the proper direction and hopefully, will become a viable entertainment outlet as well as a financial asset in our overall operations. Our summer programming, although outstandingly artistic in its success, needs financial security in order to maintain its viability. To obtain the necessary financial stability, we are undertaking a study on the viability of increasing our endowment so we will have annual monies sufficient to support our summer programming for the immediate, and the distant future.

I believe in a presentation of an annual perspective, we need to look at the good that we have done, but we need to look at it from the point of how can we be better. What might we do better to obtain and maintain financial security while still providing community access and programming.

I believe the next years will be challenging in many regards. I hope with the overall economic upturn, we will enjoy the financial success that I also hope we have earned.

JR Colbeck, President
Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc.

Executive Director's Report

This year many fabulous activities centered on youth in our community. We actively invest in our youth today, as they will be stewards of Tibbits in the future. Instilling in them an appreciation for live performance AND historic buildings is vital for both their development and Tibbits'.

We reached *many* new audiences this year. Through grants from the Branch County Community Foundation we brought more than 70 children and parents to see the Summer Theatre musical "Peter Pan." For most, it was the first time ever seeing a full length, professional production. What a treasure to watch the reactions from these first time attendees.

Another grant from the Michigan Humanities Council Heritage Program also expanded our audiences and our programming as we shared music, photos, food and information on Arab culture. Bridging relationships by sharing information has been the core of the project and fulfills our mission of providing arts and culture.

It's important to focus on the wonderful achievements in our programming and be proud of everything we are doing. The challenge remains funding. We are grateful to all who support Tibbits through membership, sponsorship, volunteerism, donations, and attendance. We work hard to grow each of those areas. It gets harder each year. There are more options for entertainment, for donations, for time. We continue to strive to provide value, quality, and a unique piece of the past.

With 90 events in the theatre last year, Tibbits is filled with activity. It's vibrant. It's exciting. It's being utilized like never before. Yet attendance last year was lack-luster. We compete for what seems to have become one of the most precious commodities—time.

As we celebrate our historic theatre we also maintain a historic home on Pearl Street. Each summer it houses up to six company members. The house, like any other building has ongoing maintenance and upkeep. We know repairs to historic properties need to be done carefully to preserve value. (Too many historic buildings are damaged by well-meaning but incorrect repairs.) This year we invested over \$9000 in the house with a much needed remodeling of its only bathroom/shower, a necessary repair, but one which hit the cash flow.

Summer Theatre overall was a surprise. Attendance was disappointing for all of the shows. Yet the expenses remained the same. The net result was another large hit to the bottom line. While the Auction did well, sponsorships were strong, and membership grew, none were large enough to make up for the losses and the strains on the cash flow.

In the year ahead we are focusing on changing and expanding. We're trying some new programming, adding new events to the summer season, targeting new audiences. We are looking for any way to grow our income while also growing our impact.

We continue to strive to provide more arts and cultural opportunities for our community. We continue to make Tibbits the place where memories are created. Tibbits Opera House is a landmark for our community. Tibbits programming positively impacts quality of life, education, and our local economy. We will continue restoring and improving the building and her programs. We will continue to make decisions for the long-term benefits of this organization.

Christine Delaney
Executive Director

Board of Directors and Staff

2014-2015 Board of Directors and Staff

J. Richard Colbeck*

President

Rick Merrill*

Vice President

Brian Hodson*

Treasurer

Molly VanStone*

Secretary

Brian Hodson*

Past President

Jim Maynard*

Member-at-Large

Polly Locke*

Member-at-Large

Mike Beckwith

Doug Bloom

Caroline Lowe Christy

David Coyle

Chris Donbrock

Dylan Foster

Jacqueline Jonsson - BCCT

Laura Lutterbeck

Dr. Baron Whateley

**Denotes Executive Committee*

2014-2015 Staff

Christine Delaney - *Executive Director*

Charles Burr - *Artistic Director*

Larry Downs - *Accounting Manager*

Sarah Zimmer - *Special Events/Development*

Molly Long - *Membership Director*

Pam Kasprzyk - *Director of Volunteers*

Tammy Apmann - *Audience Outreach*

Dave Brown - *Facility Manager*

Chuck Corless - *Assistant Facility Manager*

Joan Spaulding - *Building Assistant*

Tibbits Endowment

Tibbits Opera House Endowment (TOHE) receives and administers endowment funds used to support programming and maintenance for Tibbits Opera House. Separate from restoration endeavors, the endowment's purpose is to ensure the long-term viability of the building and organization through endowed gifts.

Assistance from the TOHE this year helped supplement the costs of flying Peter Pan in the Tibbits Summer Theatre production as well as supporting other programming costs of the season. Funds for the technical side of producing theatre purchased supplies, equipment, and made repairs in the costume, lighting, and scenery departments and their respective workshops. It included repairs to the surger and the sewing machine, replacement of two Clear Com headsets, and repairs to the electrical dimmers.

As in past years, funds from the endowment helped with repairs and testing of the theatre's boiler, and allowed for upgrades to speed the internet for the theatre, especially the box office to improve the ticket purchase experience for patrons. Tibbits also invested in a new large format printer and initial supplies. The printer is for the large posters displayed in the office windows as well as for sets. There were no major expenses for the TOHE; all administrative expenses were covered by the Tibbits Opera Foundation.

TOHE was established by the Tibbits Opera Foundation board in July 2003. It is a 501(c) 3 organization separate from the Tibbits Opera Foundation. Members of the TOHE board include Jeff Dean (president), Tod Dally (vice president), Ken Delaney (secretary), Jim Gordon (treasurer), J. Richard Colbeck, Brian Hodson and Ray Sebastian.

To date, funds within the endowment represent the gracious gifts of:

Harold J. "Dutch" Meier, M.D. Endowment Fund

Gloria & Norman Hawk and Gretchen & Raymond Dresser

Glen & Eileen Barnett Estate

Dick Fitzgerald Memorial

Marvin & Phyllis Rosenberg

Endowment Fund for Children's Programming

Emma, Meredith and Madelynn Grife Fund - Children's Programming

Alex Lomik - Children's Programming Memorial Fund

Olga F. Wright - Children's Programming Endowment Fund

TOHE accepts gifts of cash, securities, real and personal property which a donor wishes to permanently endow. The board invests and manages these gifts for the benefit of Tibbits Opera House, its programs, and the arts in our community. Only a portion of the interest or earnings is distributed; the principal is preserved to provide a steady source of income. Persons interested in receiving more information on the endowment, planned giving or the restoration may contact Tibbits Opera House. Advisors are available to meet with donors about gifting options.

TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

**BALANCE SHEET – Operations
For Year Ended September 30, 2015**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$16,005	
Accounts Receivable	\$1,227	
Total Current Assets		\$17,232

Fixed Assets

Company House	\$53,877	
Vehicle	\$15,940	
Shop Building	\$52,220	
Theater & Equipment	\$1,162,388	
Computers/Software	\$18,096	
Land	\$12,100	
Total	\$1,314,621	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$665,964	
Un-depreciated Cost		\$648,657

Other Assets

Prepaid Expenses	\$2,164	
Total Other Assets		\$2,164

TOTAL ASSETS		\$668,053
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$30,535	
Accrued Employee Benefits	\$9,151	
Deferred Membership	\$35,753	
Due Restoration	\$1,000	
Deferred Income	\$6,734	
Deferred Payroll	\$1,164	
Deferred Deposits	\$2,595	
Total Current Liabilities		\$86,932

Long Term Liabilities

Loan Payable - CB&T	\$109,709	
Line of Credit - CB&T	\$25,000	
Line of Credit - PNC	\$32,500	
Auto Loan - CB&T	\$12,215	
Long Term Liabilities		\$179,424

Total Liabilities

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	\$462,955	
Net Income	-\$61,258	
Total Equity		\$401,697

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$668,053
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Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W. Chicago Street

TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES - Operations For Year Ended September 30, 2015

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants		225,045
Grants	41,310	
Membership Dues	104,192	
Gifts, Memorials, Trusts	62,157	
Misc.	7,386	
Donated Services Operations	<u>10,000</u>	
Program Services		204,319
Entertainment Series/Other	44,219	
TST Revenue	137,376	
Young Audience/ School Programming	<u>22,724</u>	
Fundraising		81,381
Theatre rental		<u>34,127</u>
Total		544,872
Net Assets released from Restrictions		9,803
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>554,675</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services		251,804
Summer Theatre	198,022	
Programming	<u>53,782</u>	
Supporting Services		234,881
General Employees Payroll & Benefits	185,264	
Fundraising, Special Events	20,975	
Other G&A	<u>28,642</u>	
Opera House G&A		55,359
Interest Expense		13,936
TOTAL EXPENSES before depreciation		<u>555,980</u>
Depreciation		<u>59,953</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		615,933

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets -61,258

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TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

BALANCE SHEET - RESTORATION CAMPAIGN
For Year Ended September 30, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets Restricted

SMB Money Market	\$ 23,183.45	
Money Market Edward Jones	\$ 85.75	
Total Current Assets - Restricted		\$ 23,269.20

Amount Due from Tibbits Foundation		\$ 1,000.00
Total Current Assets		\$ 24,269.20

Fixed Assets

Capitalized Phases	\$1,146,394.93	
Construction in Progress	\$ 76,517.00	
Computers & Software	\$ 668.33	
Total Fixed Assets		\$1,223,580.26

TOTAL ASSETS		\$1,247,849.46
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Long Term Liability		\$ -
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EQUITY

Retained Earnings	\$1,221,308.66	
Net Income	\$ 26,540.80	
Total Equity		\$1,247,849.46

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$1,247,849.46
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STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES - RESTORATION CAMPAIGN
For Year Ended September 30, 2015

RESTORATION EXPENSES

REVENUE

Contributions, Grants, Misc.	\$ 27,115.18	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 27,115.18

EXPENSES

Conference Expense LHAT	\$ (535.00)	
Bank Charges	\$ (39.38)	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ (574.38)

Net Assets released from Restrictions		\$ (41,834.38)
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Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		(\$15,293.58)
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Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W. Chicago Street

Tibbits Opera House Endowment

TOH ENDOWMENT BALANCE SHEET

As of November 30, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets

Edward Jones Money Market Savings \$ 51,802.30

Total Current Assets \$ 51,802.30

Other Assets

Edward Jones Stocks \$ 116,437.36

Edward Jones Market Value \$ 51,397.58

Total Other Assets \$ 167,834.94

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 219,637.24

EQUITY

Valuation Allowance \$ 51,397.58

Permanently Restricted \$ 154,790.15

Retained Earnings \$ 18,789.39

Net Income \$ (5,339.88)

Total Equity \$ 219,637.24

TOTAL LIABILITIES EQUITY

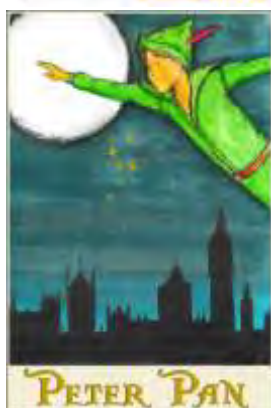
\$ 219,637.24

Summer Theatre



The famous short story writer W. Somerset Maugham called one of his later collections of his varied stories “The Mixture as Before”—an apt title, too, for our 52nd season. We continued to combine long time favorites and newer Broadway offerings for our local audience. The mix for 2015 of something old and something new seemed to please the two largest demographics of our core audience.

We began the season with the classic Neil Simon comedy of impossible roommates, *The Odd Couple*. *Peter Pan* brought out the young and the young at heart. All were enchanted with the Flying by Foy—the professional company used to get the actors soaring across the stage. *Pippin* showed off some of the best dancing to ever grace our stage and *Alone Together Again*, a timely comedy, kept audiences laughing as the parents of the protagonists moved home.



As we have for the last 28 years, we had a strong Popcorn Theatre season. The roster we produced included *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *Rumpelstilzkin*. We brought in Doug Scheer’s *Scheer Genius’ Laugh Factory* and the musical duos Gemini and Mustard’s *Retreat*. *Peter Pan* played Saturday matinees.



While this year’s total attendance (Mainstage and Popcorn together) was down, the numbers don’t tell the whole story. We reached new audiences as noted on the Community Service & Attendance section of this report (pages 15 & 19). There are many other options competing for the attention of today’s audiences, with many of them converging in the single device we hold in the palm of our hands. We will continue to do everything we can to introduce, share, promote, and expand live theatre as the rewarding, tangible entertainment which touches us in a way other forms never will.

We once again had a grand mix of returning actors and many brand new faces—faces theatre goers will see more of in future seasons. Housing was at a premium, but we squeaked by for another year. Thank you to all our volunteers who opened their homes for our summer company.



With the re-organization of Encore Michigan, the nominations for the Wilde awards, Michigan’s version of the Tony Awards of which we have received numerous nominations in the last few years will be announced later in 2016.

Charles Burr
Artistic Director
Tibbits Summer Theatre

Summer Theatre (CON'T)

2015 Tibbits Summer Theatre & Sponsors

The Odd Couple

Vandervoort, Christ & Fisher, P.C.

Peter Pan

PNC Bank

Pippin

Coldwater Board of Public Utility

Alone Together Again

Satek Winery



The Odd Couple



Pippin

Tibbits Popcorn Theatre

Dr. Jon & Seibra Herbener

Miss Nelson is Missing

Great Lakes Chiropractic

Scheer Genius "Laugh Factory"

Matthew C. Christopher, DDS, PC

Rumpelstilzkin

Coldwater Exchange Club

Gemini

Honor Credit Union

Mustard's Retreat

*Edward Jones -
Greg Bruder & Tracy Kelley*



Peter Pan



Alone Together Again



Miss Nelson is Missing

Artists

Artwork for the shows provided by: Matt Biolchini, Nichole Steel, Jeff Jones, Aaron Garn and Clovis Bordeaux.

Production photos by Jeff Jones & Mike Gorecki SPI Photo

Marketing by Blue Earth Studio, Inc.

Grant Support

Tibbits Summer Theatre was made possible through grant support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts, Popcorn Theatre was made possible through support from Dr. Ed Lake, Dr. Young Yoon and McDonald's of Branch and Hillsdale Counties, White Pigeon, Centreville, Tekonsha and Marshall.

Entertainment Series

From the Tibbits Theatre Foundation board meeting minutes dated April 14, 1964 ~

“Mr. Stilson reported on the Bob Newhart concert held April 12th, that while we didn’t break even financially, we came close. He explained it has become obvious from past performances that we cannot expect to make money on our big-name performances, but we are building up considerable prestige and increasing the status of the Theatre and letting people know we are in business. We will hope to break even and we should make money on the local performances and on the lower priced entertainers. However, bringing in the fine artists we have had has done us good.”

Fifty years later, as we look at the Entertainment Series the story hasn’t changed. The goal is providing a variety of artistic and cultural entertainment for the community. We occasionally throw in a big name entertainer. We do our best to at least break even, but at best, provide great performances for our audiences.

The 2014-15 season offered a mix of events, tapped into a few genres to meet different tastes and included some amazing artistic talent. All events combined we about broke even.



Providing comedy to our audiences, we offered “Christmas Bingo” in December, a one-woman show in the “Late Night Catechism” series. In March we held our Second Annual Comedy Festival with headliner, comic Mike Green, as well as Tommy Ryman and emcee D.K. Hamilton.

Parrots of the Caribbean in January celebrated the music of Jimmy Buffet complete with margaritas and Land Shark beer. Tied in with downtown Coldwater’s Ice Fest it was a great time and fun party atmosphere with many patrons dressing up in their favorite beach attire.

The other musical offerings featured three unique concerts from the eclectic folk rock sounds of The Ragbirds in November to classical ensembles of the Fort Wayne Phil in April.



Three ensembles from the Philharmonic—flute viola and harp, a brass quintet, and a string quartet—performed the music of Debussy, Ewald and Beethoven.

Music of the World with Victor Ghannam and Friends in May featured top, world-class musicians from the Detroit area gathered specifically to jam at Tibbits. The ethnic blend of music and instruments infused the theatre with influences from Arab regions, the Middle East, Spain, Asia, Africa, Europe and even the US. It truly was a one-of-a-kind event.

Special Events Report

Tibbits Opera House conducts many fundraising events throughout the year. Special events coupled with our annual membership drive is the lifeblood of the organization. Gifts from the private sector are becoming more and more important in helping Tibbits Opera House continue to provide quality entertainment throughout the region.

Tibbits Annual Auction – Nov. 1, 2014

35th Annual Auction “Tibbits Takes Flight” grossed \$68,734.56 with a net profit of \$61,555.42. Over 300 guests were given first class treatment as the 2014 auction brought back the romance of flying! Guests were welcomed by Harriet Quimby, Amelia Earhart and a flight crew. Drinks were offered by our flight attendants as food was served by Branch Area Career Center Culinary Arts students. Guests had the opportunity to partake in a parachute wine pull and souvenir passport photo in between perusing the cargo in the silent and live auctions.



A live auction giveaway game warmed up the audience before bidding. Darren Spieth and Dan Satow, owners of Spieth & Satow Auctioneers, held the audience in a fast-paced and entertaining flight pattern. High bids for the evening came on a complete orthodontic treatment donated by Dr. Baron Whateley, who offered a second to a alternate bidder. Other top items were two separate dinners donated by Kathy and Rick Merrill and an end-of-an-era dinner, “JR’s last Famous Pizza Party,” donated and hosted by JR and Jennifer Colbeck. It went for \$2000 and was also offered twice.

New to auction this year was an automated receipt. It served as a donation receipt, saving the organization around \$70-\$130 on postage. The “Baggage Claim” was quick, efficient and got our passengers on their way home in record time. Over 600 items and services were donated.

Golf Par-tee!– August 7, 2015

The golf committee thought it was time to shake things up and hosted the first ever Tibbits Golf



Par-tee! The event included a hog roast, live music, games and night golf for the golfers. Main Event Sponsors included Curt Albright Farms, Bloom Dairy, Inc., and Oak Prairie Farms.

The event drew a few new faces. Eleven teams participated in the night golf outing and 37 individuals joined for dinner and live entertainment. The Jim Stout Band and The Backup Band preformed throughout the evening. The golfers reportedly had a blast and many said they would play the 9-hole scramble in the dark again next year.

Other activities included a corn-hole challenge, a putting contest, closest to the pin, raffles, door prizes and more.

The total revenue generated for this new event was \$13, 501 with a profit of approximately \$8,500.

Sarah Zimmer, Special Events Development Director

Attendance

Dates	Presenter	Event	Total Attend.	Children
Oct. 5,19,26,	Covenant Church	Church Service	450	150
Oct. 11, 2014	Mich. Historic Preservation Net.	Fall Gala	75	0
Oct. 16-17, 204	Branch Co. Comm. Theatre	Dracula	320	101
Oct.23-25, 204	Tibbits Young Audiences	Dorothy in Wonderland	954	423
Nov. 1, 2014	Tibbits Special Events	Auction- Tibbits Takes Flight	315	6
Nov. 13-15, 2014	Quincy Drama Society	Play On!	189	70
Nov. 14, 2014	Tibbits Boosters	Doll-o-Rama	104	70
Nov. 14, 2014	Arts Alive	Art Walk	120	40
Nov. 16,23,30,	Covenant Church	Church Service	455	90
Nov. 21, 2014	Branch Co. Comm. Band	Fall Harvest of Songs	204	20
Nov. 23, 2014	Tibbits Entertainment Series	The Ragbirds	118	20
Nov. 29, 2014	Private Event	Birthday party	60	20
Dec.7,14,21,	Covenant Church	Church Service	483	100
Dec. 11-13	Branch Co. Comm. Theatre	Best Christmas Pageant Ever	644	217
Dec. 16, 2014	St. Charles Borromeo School	Sing With Us The Christmas Story	460	200
Dec. 17, 2014	Coldwater High School	Choir Concert	115	40
Dec. 18, 2014	Legg Middle School	Choir Concert	350	100
Dec. 20, 2014	T-Tab	Gift Wrapping	14	8
Dec. 21, 2014	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Christmas Bingo	127	3
Jan. 22, 2014	Tibbits Opera Foundation	Annual Meeting	25	3
Jan. 24, 2015	Tibbits Community Event	Ice Fest Soup Station	185	30
Jan. 24, 2015	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Parrots of the Caribbean	316	2
Jan. 25, 2015	Covenant Church	Church Service	150	30
Jan. 27, 2015	TYA School Programming	Wild Swan Owl's Winter	558	510
Jan. 31, 2015	Quincy Tip-Up Festival	Little Miss and Tip-Up Queen	514	150
Feb. 5-7, 2015	Coldwater High School	A Year With Frog and Toad	634	273
Feb. 13-21, 2015	Quincy Drama Society	Beauty and the Beast	1448	492
Feb. 26-28, 2015	Coldwater Noon Rotary	Pure Michigan Rotary Show	1141	40
Mar. 5-7, 2015	Branch Co. Comm. Theatre	Night Comes Early- Pickering Show	150	26
Mar.8,15,29,	Covenant Church	Church Service	313	64
Mar. 13, 2015	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Comedy Fest	228	5
Mar. 14, 2015	Throne Room Ministries	Testimony Bluegrass Country Gospels	19	2
Mar. 20-22, 2015	Tibbits Young Audiences	Charleston!	844	241
Mar. 21, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	60	8
Mar. 27, 2015	Branch Co. Comm. Band	Spring Concert	208	30
Mar. 31, 2015	TYA School Programming	Wild Swan Coming to America	485	458
Apr.12,26, 2015	Covenant Church	Church Service	298	62
Apr. 19, 2015	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Fort Wayne Phil Ensemble	135	2
Apr. 22, 2015	TYA School Programming	Wild Swan Under the African Sky	574	538
April 27, 2015	Quincy Comm. Schools	Ennio Emmanuel	440	430
April 28, 2015	Tibbits Boosters	Volunteer Reception	90	0
May 7-9, 2015	Branch Co. Comm. Theatre	Curtains	347	54
May 10,17,24,31	Covenant Church	Church Service	539	129
May 11, 2015	TYA School Programming	MSF-Romeo & Juliet	387	380
May 16-17, 2015	Dance Factory	Recital	1430	556
May 21, 2015	Coldwater High School	Choir Concert	90	30
May 22, 2015	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Music of the World	71	23
May 22, 2015	TYA School Programming	Music of the World	259	219
May 23, 2015	Kathy's School of Dance	Dance Recital	475	75
May 24, 2015	Tibbits/BCCT	Stage Combat Workshop	32	12
May 28, 2015	Legg Middle School	Choir Concert	250	40
May 30, 2015	T-Tab	Spotlight on Teen Talent Show	236	75

Attendance

Date	Presenter	Event	Total Attend.	Children
June 6, 2015	Firebird Fine Arts Academy	Firebird Recital	90	10
June 7,14, 2015	Covenant Church	Church Service	251	69
June 12, 2015	Arts Alive	Art Walk	100	40
Jun. 19-20, 26-27	Tibbits Popcorn Theatre	Miss Nelson is Missing	855	688
June 23, 2015	Pedal Across Lower Mich.	Tour	0	0
June 20, 2015	Tibbits Community Event	Strawberry Fest Building Tours	28	0
Jun. 25-27, Jul. 1-3	Tibbits Summer Theatre	The Odd Couple	772	13
Jul. 3, 10	Tibbits Popcorn Theatre	Scheer Genius' Laugh Factory	330	185
Jul. 9-11, Jul. 15-18	Tibbits Summer Theatre	Peter Pan	1635	563
Jul. 17,24-25	Tibbits Popcorn Theatre	Rumplestilzkin	879	500
Jul.23-25,30-Aug.1	Tibbits Summer Theatre	Pippin	1093	57
Jul. 27, 2015	Tibbits Boosters	Volunteer Ice Cream Social	51	0
Jul. 31, Aug.1	Tibbits Popcorn Theatre	Gemini	247	125
Aug. 6-8, 12-15	Tibbits Summer Theatre	Alone Together, Again	1163	9
Aug. 7-8, 2015	Tibbits Popcorn Theatre	Mustard's Retreat	161	110
Aug. 7, 2015	Tibbits Special Events	Night of Golf	95	0
Aug. 18, 2015	Tibbits Heritage Grant Program	Van Trip to Detroit	15	12
Aug 17-21, 2015	Tibbits Heritage Grant Program	SURA Photography Workshop	15	15
Aug. 22, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	100	20
Aug. 26, 2015	T-Tab	T-Tab Party	12	12
Aug. 29, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	100	12
Sep. 2, 2015	Coldwater Community Schools	All District School Meeting	400	0
Sep. 4, 2015	Private Events	Wedding rehearsals	160	20
Sep. 5, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	100	12
Sep. 6, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	100	12
Sep. 12, 2015	Private Event	Wedding	100	12
Sep. 19, 2015	Tibbits Community Event	Apple Fest Tours	54	10
Sep. 19, 2015	Smith Memorial Concert	Woody English and Friends	214	2
Sep. 25-27, 2015	Tibbits Entertainment Series	Always a Bridesmaid	224	2
Sep. 27, 2015	Tibbits Heritage Grant Program	Arabic Calligraphy Workshop	7	0
Sep. 28, 2015	Tibbits Boosters	Boosters Annual Meeting	20	0
			27,859	9,177

BROADENING OUR AUDIENCES

Tibbits received a grant from the Stanley Godfrey Endowment Fund for the Arts and the Irv & Kathryn Harris Memorial Fund both through the Branch County Community Foundation to offer tickets to “Peter Pan” to youth who for economic or cultural reasons would not otherwise get an opportunity to see a full scale professional musical theatre production. It turned out to be a fabulous experience. To watch the young faces (and even the parents) enthralled with the magic of live theatre was PRICELESS!

Tibbits reached out to organizations who work with low income families as well as under-represented minority groups. 24 tickets were used by members of the Arab American Society of Coldwater; 34 to Bronson schools and the Department of Human Services; 5 to Beginnings Care for Life; 8 to Family Promise; and 5 to Bronson Hispanic Ministries.



Summary

29,654	Total Including Performers
10,029	Total Children Served
240	Days of Usage
40	Community Events
38	Tibbits Events
4	Partnership Events
8	Private Events
90	Total Events

Tibbits Young Audiences

Touching youth with quality arts experiences and supporting and supplementing the arts education offered by the schools is the entire focus of Tibbits Young Audiences.



From the production of Charleston, 2015

Tibbits Young Audiences (TYA) produces two shows a year, a fall show and a spring musical under the direction of several qualified volunteers. The productions are the only contact some area youth have with cultural based activities. They learn leadership, responsibility, teamwork and creativity all under the guise of having fun.

The worlds of Oz and Wonderland collided in the fantastically fun romp, “Dorothy in Wonderland” produced by TYA in October, 2014. Cast members included kids in 4th through 8th grades representing Coldwater, Bronson, Union City, Quincy, Fremont, and Hillsdale.

If you weren’t around in the 1920s you may not appreciate just how difficult the dance moves of this era were! TYA bravely took on the challenging choreography of the time by producing the musical, “Charleston” in March of 2015. The 50 cast members representing Coldwater, Bronson, Union City, and Quincy, wowed audiences with their skills on the stage.

Director for both shows was Julia Littley and Tirsha Odisher acted as producer. They were assisted by numerous parents and volunteers to make both shows enormous successes.

Thank you to Kiwanis for generously sponsoring the TYA program in 2014-2015.



Tibbits Theatre And Beyond (T-TAB)

How do teenagers in Branch County build confidence and develop leadership skills while learning the workings of real theatre in action? They join T-Tab of course! The group was very busy in 2014-15, helping build sets and working behind the scenes during TYA and summer theatre productions. They promoted Tibbits through face painting at community events and by walking in the Halloween parade.

Every spring, T-Tab produces the “Spotlight on Teen Talent” competition including the creation of their own 10-minute variety act during the judges’ deliberation. In 2015, the event drew over 300 attendees and 20 acts. The group also participated in a stage combat workshop presented by the Ring of Steele Action Theatre and Stunt Troupe. Their hard work was rewarded with a first ever “all-nighter” at the opera house including pizza, a scavenger hunt and movies.

2014- 2015 T-Tab members: Gabriel Armstrong, Brenee Atkins, Mae Blansit, Helen Blansit, Ella Budd, Kaitlin Colyer, Ben Fagen, Emily Fagen, Lexi Galliers, Lydia Kaniewski, Michayla Lock, Allie Marshall, Connor Michael, Linzy Jo Monks, Brynn Niedzwiecki, Sarah Odom, Jazmyne Sours, and Mary Tate. Tamara Apmann served as the 2014-2015 T-Tab coordinator.

Tibbits Boosters – Volunteers

Tibbits Boosters has completed its 10th year supporting Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council. This year we concentrated on creating committee chairs, each tasked with organizing volun-



teers for a specific area of Tibbits. Volunteers served over 6,000 hours. Boosters held many “friend-raisers” as well as honored our volunteers for their dedication.

Our biggest fundraiser this year was the 6th annual Kids' Art Rocks. We collected 16 pieces of artwork created by Branch County students. An open house was held in the art gallery at Tibbits during the June Art Walk. All pieces were rented by local businesses to be on display through July of 2016.

Doll-A-Rama, 2014

Doll-A-Rama returned to Tibbits in November of 2014. This event featured several activities for young girls and their dolls including making a necklace, scrapbooking and learning about hair and dress design. The event was successful with 104 participants.

The volunteer reception in April themed “Volunteers are the Heart of Tibbits,” recognized 21 volunteers with over 100 hours of recorded service with a personalized name badge and pin. Linda Ives was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

We also honored our volunteers at an annual ice cream social in July. Volunteers were invited to attend the event at the Coach Eby Center where the Booster Board served ice cream sundaes as a thank you to the volunteers. Over 50 attendees ate ice cream and interacted with part of the cast and crew from summer theatre. The Boosters held an annual meeting in September at which members elected officers to the board.

Tibbits Ahoy! A Pirate Adventure is in the planning stage and scheduled for March of 2016. Children and parents will have the opportunity to learn pirate songs, listen to pirate-themed stories, learn a sword dance and more. We are hoping to introduce several new families to Tibbits through this event.

The Booster Board has great expectations to bring in more volunteers this year. We will honor volunteers again with Volunteer of the Month, Volunteer of the Year, the annual Volunteer Reception and the Ice Cream Social.

Angela Washburn, President Tibbits Booster Board

Tibbits Booster Board:

Diane Riegel, Past President; Suzanne Fillmore, Treasurer; Diana Conant, Secretary; Marianne Hodson, Data Manager; Marisue Taylor, Long Range Planning; Jan Borer, Historian; Darene Sargent, Special Events; Shirley Easterday, Gail Russell, Joan Waterbury, Members-at-Large; Pam Kasprzyk, Staff Liaison



Linda Ives (with flowers) receives Volunteer of the Year

Heritage Grant Programs

In June, 2015 Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) through its Heritage Grants program. The grant supports projects that bring the authentic voices of cultural identity groups to the foreground.

Tibbits partnered with area schools, service organizations and the local Arab-American community to develop a series of presentations, workshops, and exhibits aimed at fostering conversations about the history and culture of the Arab American community.

In August, Tibbits hosted a week-long photography summer camp open to teenagers in Coldwater of Yemeni descent. A group of teens participated in the SURA program which was modeled after a program sponsored by the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn (AANM). The students' perspectives of Coldwater, community, family, and culture were represented through their photography which was exhibited at Tibbits and the AANM later in the fall. The group took a bus trip to the AANM where they were given a special tour and to the Motown Museum in Detroit where they learned some classic Motown dance moves.

In September, Tibbits hosted a calligraphy workshop which examined the classical styles of the Arabic letters and contemporary designs to create an abstract, yet readable representation of words. The intent of the instructor was to cross cultural barriers by discussing the ancient art of calligraphy and its importance in contemporary Arab society.



Community Service

Each year Tibbits Opera Foundation helps other organizations through the donation of tickets, gift items, props, costumes, set pieces or sharing theatre advice and expertise. Tibbits also collaborates with other organizations on events held at the theatre. Following is a partial list of the organizations who benefited from Tibbits' community service:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Altrusa International of Branch County | Knights of Columbus - Cristo Rey Church |
| Arab American Society of Coldwater | Department of Human Services |
| Beginnings Care for Life | Hillsdale Preparatory School |
| Boys and Girls Club of Battle Creek | Jackson County United Way |
| Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Shelterhouse | Jillian Crist Memorial Scholarship |
| Family Promise" | Jonesville Athletic Boosters Association |
| Branch County Sheriff's Office | Kimball Camp Nature Center -YMCA |
| Branch County United Way - Power of the Purse | Lakeland Elementary |
| Bronson Schools | Methodist Church |
| Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce | Michigan Historic Preservation Network |
| Coldwater Cardinals Athletic Boosters Assoc. | Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes |
| Coldwater Community Schools | Prairie Baptist School |
| Coldwater Township Sunrise Rotary | SAFE Place Shelter |
| Community Health Center of Branch County | R.I.S.E. - Angola |
| 18th Annual Woman's Fest | St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School |
| Cancer Center | St. Joseph Animal Rescue |
| Hospice Duck Race | Union City Rotary |
| Foundation Gala | |



Membership

Each year, our valued members help us fulfill our mission. Because of them, it is possible to offer quality entertainment at affordable prices. Our corporate membership includes 37 members. 385 members make up our individual member list. Each year presents new challenges, but our members continue to support this beautiful theatre and all of the events held within.

As part of Tibbits Entertainment Series, we welcomed Jeff Daniels & the Ben Daniels Band to the Tibbits stage as well as Parrots of the Caribbean and Coldwater Comedy Fest. These and many other events along with Tibbits Summer Theatre delighted the hearts of many. None of this would be possible without our loyal members.

Our individual and corporate membership roster continues to grow. We look forward to another exciting year and want to be able to welcome even more members to our list in the coming months!

The Tibbits membership committee deserves a big thank you for their dedication and efforts.

Caroline Christy, Membership Chairperson
Georgann Reppert, Barbara Mullally, Laura Lutterbeck,
Chris Rodesiler, Molly VanStone, Committee Members
Molly Long, Membership Director

Barton S. Tibbits Sponsor

One of the highlights of the annual Tibbits auction is the Barton S. Tibbits Sponsorship. The winning bidder receives their choice of seats for every performance at the theatre for the entire year. For 2014, Ralph and Carol Schafer became our BST Sponsors.

2015	Norma Geishert, Betty Shank & Remus & Donna Rigg
2014	Ralph & Carol Schafer
2012 - 2013	Norma Geishert
2002 - 2011	Ed & Norma Geishert (10 years)
2001	Ed Geishert
2000	Harold & Jane Schultz
1999	Dale & Judy Custer
1990 - 1998	Harold & Jane Schultz (9 years)
1989	Irv & Catherine Harris
1988	Ed & Sylvia Geishert
1986 - 1987	Richard & Marie Bettinger (2 years)

Individual Members

Our members are the foundation for this historic theatre. Without them, we would not be able to keep the doors open and offer affordable programming. We thank each and every one of you for your generosity and support of the Tibbits Opera House. For more information on membership and its benefits, please call Tibbits at 517-278-6029 or visit our website, www.Tibbits.org

Individual contributors are recognized according to the following categories:

- Curtain Raiser** \$1000 +
- Angel** \$650 to \$999
- Star** \$450 to \$649
- Benefactor** \$250 to \$449
- Friend** \$100 to \$249
- Donor** \$40 to \$99

Curtain Raiser

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Jean Biringer
Angela Briggs
Dr. Robert W. Browne
Gonzie Cardenas
Randy & Caroline Christy
David & Carol Coyle
Dan & Judy Dobson
M. Marie Bettinger-Emerson
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Corporate members consist of local businesses and service clubs. They offer generous support to Tibbits and the arts. Please support them as a way of thanking them. We encourage all businesses and service clubs to become corporate members.

We recognize our corporate contributors according to the following categories:

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*Volunteers donated 6,165 hours to Tibbits Opera House during the 2014 - 2015 fiscal year.
Only hours submitted by volunteers themselves are tracked and recorded.*

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Sue Adams
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Wade Adams
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The monetary value of these donated hours equals, \$141,800.75. We thank each and every volunteer for being a vital part of the success of the organization.

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Christine Lindblom	Raetta Mirgain	Dawn Putnam	Brande Sours
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Alexandra Lyon	Nancy Nunemaker	Graham Rowe-Bulnick	Sandra Tistle

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 Zane Tucker
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 Sandy Turner
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 Jerry VanBlarcom
 Letha VanBlarcom
 Molly VanStone
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 Amy VanZee
 Anna-Marie Vorce
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 Sierra Wolfcale
 Marene Wood
 Connie Wood
 Jennifer Wortz
 Nathan Wortz
 Deborah Wright
 Bob Wymer
 Mary Wymer
 Monica Wyss
 Barb Yesh
 Dorothy Young
 Sarah Zimmer



Suzanne Fillmore & Ralph Kasprzyk doing a little spring cleaning.



JR Colbeck thanking volunteers during annual reception.



Boosters Ice Cream Social



Auction Chair Christine Lewis and Dave Winn starting off 2014 benefit auction.

Memorials

Tibbits Opera House has a very long history and over its 133 years, easily hundreds of thousands of souls have stepped on its stage to perform, sat in the house to watch the show, or spent hours making theatre and performances “happen” whether for themselves, for the community, or for the arts.



Raymond Smith

(Feb.2, 1927 – June 24, 2015)

Ray Smith served on the Tibbits Opera Foundation Board of Directors from 1988 through 1991 and years later he served on the Restoration Committee as that project began to take form. As editor and publisher of the Bronson Journal for 37 years and for many years also the Union City Register-Tribune he had many opportunities to share the happenings at Tibbits. He assisted wherever he could. Ray was a special man who cared deeply for this community and the things which make it special. We are fortunate one of those things was the Tibbits Opera House.

Memorials (CON'T)

Dawn Gallup

(May 13, 1962 – March 4, 2015)

Dawn Gallup graced the Tibbits stage many times over the years and left an indelible mark on audiences, on the Tibbits staff, on the summer theatre company members with whom she worked and, really, on everyone she met. A vibrant beautiful person she transitioned seamlessly from wise-cracking, anything-for-a-laugh comedian, to a warm empathetic friend and teacher. Whether performing in community theatre, Dancing with the Celebrities, impersonating Marilyn Monroe for the Auction goes Hollywood, or filling roles in Tibbits professional summer theatre, Dawn knew how to make a character memorable. She will be sorely missed, but we can feel blessed to have known her. May we all learn from her the deep appreciation for laughter and the joy of life.



John Scheidler

(October 12, 1936 - June 4, 2015)

John Scheidler was patriarch of a family heavily engrained in theatre. The Scheidler Family's involvement and support of Tibbits goes back many decades and covered so many facets. The Scheidler sons were involved on stage and backstage. The family housed actors in the summer and hosted the entire summer company at their home at the opening of so many summer theatre seasons. Wife, Ruth has served in various capacities including serving on the board. John was always there supporting everything his family did, enjoying every moment, sometimes quietly helping in the background, or sitting in the audience, and always beaming with pride. He will be missed.



**New in 2014-2015 fiscal year

Russell Aker
Lou Anchill
Kathryn Anderson
Dorothy Atchinson
Emily Alexander
Robin Aughenbaugh
M.G. Bailey
Donna Baker
Mary Barnes
Richard Bettinger
Richard F. Biringer
Gaye Bloom
Margaret Bobier
Jon Bodolay
Phyllis Bodolay
Joseph Bonfiglio
****Phyllis Bogart**
William Bopp
Oscar Brooks
Kenneth Brown
Francis Carr
Morene Carr
Christine Colbeck
Sam Cole
Clyde Connell
Patricia Cudahay
Dorothy Culy
Donahue Davidson
Duke Davidson
Orus W. Davis

John Dean
Elmer Dobson
R. Ella Downes
Ruth Fiske
Dr. Richard Fitzgerald
Florene Fuhrman
John S. Furry
****Dawn Gallup**
Sylvia Geishert
Stanley Godfrey
Mary Good
William Good
Brian Hargreave
Bud Harvey
Margaret Hayes
Paul Herman
Phyllis Herman
Phyllis Hickey
Eloise Holben
Noah Hortsch
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Elmer Houghton
Bill Hyska
Freda Mae Johnson
Donald Kehoe
Franz Keller
Wilma Kennedy
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Wendell Kindberg
Rae Kleindinst
Jan Koss
Jim Koss

Charles Lange
Helen LaVelle
Robert Lees
Dorothy Legg
****Louis E. Legg Jr.**
Ruth Lockwood
Dr. Fredrick Lohse
Ernest Luce
Victor Lukas
Elaine G. Marion
Dorothy Mason
Raymond Mast
Dr. Harold (Dutch) Meier
Nadine McPherson
John Milnes
Marguerite Milnes
Bertha Molby
Norma Moss
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Ilda Philips
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Belle Rosener-Kapp
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Mary Sobeske
James Spaulding
Blanche Spross
Peggy Steel
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Margaret J. Stokes
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Restoration Report



In December 2014, Tibbits was awarded \$14,160 from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs towards ceiling repairs and re-creation of a portion of the original 1882 decorative paint. Beyond the goal of repairing and stabilizing the ceilings plaster, was creating an example that inspires patrons to visualize a fully restored interior.

Official work began in January of 2015. Bracy & Jahr Masonry, Inc., installed and removed the scaffolding. The team donated a portion of the scaffolding costs, per an in-kind donation.

Repair of the delaminated plaster and testing of the plasters overall stability was completed by Evergreen Architectural Arts, Inc. A further paint analysis was also carried out during this time to ensure the accuracy of the colors in preparation for the recreation of the 1882 decorative paint application.

Taking advantage of the scaffolding, Tibbits also was able to address the long overdue repair of the tin ceiling medallion. Previously separated and wired together, Grand River Builders, Inc. repaired weak points and welded the piece together again. It was painted and reinstalled. Although never in danger of falling and securely wired in place, the medallion was visually unsettling. The repair is one of the most notable features of the transformation, now securely in place and visually strong.



The 1882 decorative paint replication, also carried out by Evergreen Architectural Arts, Inc. proved to be quite different from the 1960's Victorian



-esk red flocked wallpaper and cream and gold colored trim. Although gold leaf is present among the original 1882 scheme. Other notable colors are sage greens, light pinks, mauves, corals and even a bit of deep green. The original design also included decorative murals in the proscenium arch as well as the dome. Though the originals are lost, excellent written descriptions and historical documentation will allow them to be re-created in the future.

The finished product caught the attention of many of our patrons, prompting questions regarding interior restoration.

In August, Tibbits; Tom Roberts, AIA; Owen-Aimes-Kimball Co. and Grand River Builders was honored by The American Institute of Architects Detroit for the theatre's stunning façade reconstruction. We can only hope that the interior transformation will produce the WOW as the exterior most certainly has.

Restoration Campaign Memorial Donations

****New in 2014-2015 fiscal year**

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Donations towards Improvements



Tibbits was graced with generous donations towards improvements in 2015. In January the Coldwater Rotary and the Sunrise Rotary donated a new roof for the scene shop. Branch County Community Theatre also contributed to upgrade the roof to metal. In September the community voted for Tibbits in the "Michigan Makeovers" campaign by Flagstar Bank. The donation will assist with signage to promote events at the theatre.

Restoration Believers

Donors from inception of campaign through 09/30/15

Barton S. Tibbits Circle - \$1,000,000+

1882 Society - \$500,000+

Dallas and Lucille Dearth
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Arts Alive



Arts Alive hosted six group exhibitions, a guest show and two downtown Artwalks this year.

Group shows included: *Waves; Laugh; Spring Awakening; Fantasy; Purple Passion; and Red & Rosy*. Also appearing in the gallery were bright, colorful pieces created by local children for the Booster's fundraiser, *Kids Art Rocks*.

Arts Alive and the Chamber of Commerce hosted successful summer and fall Art Walks. Both local and regional artists were hosted by downtown businesses. Shops and the four corners were filled with art, live music, dance acts, storytellers and hands on activities. New to the Art Walk was the addition of a "Marketplace," featuring crafts and other handmade artisan goods. This stop was hosted in one of the newly renovated spaces in the Kerr Building.

Arts Alive unveiled a limited edition canvas bag featuring artwork by Bev Tippmann. Bags were sold for \$15 each in shops downtown and in the Tibbits Administration Offices and Gift Shop. All funds raised went towards community related art activities.

Sarah Zimmer, Arts Alive member & Tibbits liaison



*Images from June 2015
Art Walk*

Branch County Community Theatre

Branch County Community Theatre continues in its efforts to sustain the theatrical arts in Branch County and once again anticipates a season of four shows under the contract that we have executed with the Tibbits Opera Foundation. During the past year, we believe that we have contributed not only artistically but also financially to the success of the theatre and hope that our continued relationship is as rewarding as it has been in the past.

In addition to our shows, the community theatre and its membership have been a valuable asset to the foundation by serving in many capacities including volunteering for activities both on the stage and off and in general administration of the foundation.

BCCT and members continue to enjoy the opportunity to utilize the opera house, providing us a venue for the performing arts in Branch County. We look forward to many future years of partnerships and growth together.

JR Colbeck
President, Branch County Community Theatre

10 WAYS TO SUPPORT TIBBITS OPERA HOUSE

Come see a performance!

Enjoy an evening of spectacular entertainment at the Tibbits Opera House. From Broadway shows to musicians to community theatre to comedy acts and more, there's literally a show for everyone.

Become a Member!

Help maintain a vital piece of history by becoming a Tibbits member and nourish the hopes and dreams of aspiring actors, musicians, dancers, and artists who grace Tibbits stage.

Become a Corporate Member!

Heighten your company's visibility and enhance your image as a good corporate citizen with a membership package that matches your goal of community recognition with our need for financial support.

Give a Gift to the Restoration Campaign!

Make a contribution and/or a pledge over three to five years. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal of a beautifully restored, historic gem of the community.

Sponsor a Show!

Take the opportunity to promote your business while helping Tibbits bring in entertaining shows and special events.

Volunteer!

Help at the theatre or help promote the Restoration campaign. Have fun and serve your community all at once.

Be a Host Family!

Get to know a Summer Theatre actor or crewmember by opening up your home.

Introduce Someone Else to the Tibbits!

The best form of advertising is positive word of mouth. Share the theatre with loved ones, create a memory, and give the gift of a unique experience to Tibbits.

Include Tibbits in your Estate Planning!

There are wonderful ways to include Tibbits in your estate plan and minimize the tax burden for your family. A Tibbits advisor would be happy to discuss the possibilities.

Believe!

Through the Magic of Believing, we will continue to raise the curtain!

*Tibbits Opera Foundation is a qualified non profit organization under IRS section 501(c) 3.
Gifts are tax deductible as defined in the current Internal Revenue Code.*

TIBBITS

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