TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION & ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 Annual Report
for Fiscal Year October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018
Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W Chicago Street

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

The mission of the Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council is to engage all in arts, culture, education 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.
As we enter the new year and our 137th in existence, glancing through the annual report you will note that we continue to head in the right direction financially. We have done this in a number of ways. One, which has been recently embraced by a number of theaters throughout the US, has been to gain our liquor license and open our Ghost Light Bar. This has produced income for our shows as well as for private events. Secondly, our Board and Building committee have been fiscally responsible by looking at our on-going lists of repairs and making forward looking decisions based upon our long range restoration plans, continuing to improve our physical facilities to enable a more enjoyable atmosphere at the theater. Good examples of this, as well as how the community has generously supported us, are our new boilers for the theater and heating/cooling system for the Ghost Light lobby bar area.

Speaking of a more enjoyable theater experience, we have continued, again with generous support of our members and donors, to address the issue of sound. While Tibbits has previously offered improved hearing assistance aids within the theater and is acoustically a superb theater for audio, we have added some additional sound deadening around the stage area as well as began to mic our actors. Both have brought favorable comments and we plan to continue to look at ways to enhance the sound system. We continue to be open to any thoughts you may have to improving your theater experience in any way.

Going forward, besides making improvements to the theater, we have created a committee to increase our endowment for the sustainability of great programming in the near and distant future. The Board is also taking a harder look at how we continue to reach more people throughout the community, as well as surrounding area, through wide ranging offerings for a more diverse audience.

Excited to start the new year with another great tribute band, the Classic Stones Live, Classic movie nights, followed by a comedy night, comedian Paula Poundstone and a terrific 56th summer theater playbill which includes *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *West Side Story*. As we continue to strive to bring attention to our community and historic downtown and have a lasting and positive impact for our community, I ask for your continued support for our cause. Please consider attending one (or many) of these shows and inviting others that have not been to Tibbits to attend with you, becoming a member, volunteering at a Tibbits event or making a donation to our endowment. We are open to the community’s ideas for additional entertainment and/or shows.

Lastly, I am grateful to our dedicated staff and volunteers for their countless hours to help ensure that your theater experience is most enjoyable and that you will want to come back.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the theater!

*Richard Merrill*, President
Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc.
Executive Director’s Report

"You’re doing more than renovating the Tibbits; you’re bringing back to life an irreplaceable part of American History."
~ Jeff Daniels, 2013

This year we celebrate our history in a new way as we unveil the historical display commemorating our community gem, the 137-year-old Tibbits Opera House. Enjoy it with the understanding it is just a small snippet of a long and storied history.

In addition to the Michigan Humanities Council which funded the project, we thank those who made it happen: Tamara Barnes, Brandon Apmann, Tom Howes, and from our staff Stephanie Burdick, Matt Biolchini and Tirsha Odisher. Community members provided stories, research and photos for the project. The biggest thank you goes to the thousands of individuals throughout Tibbits’ history who managed her, repaired her, renovated her, saved her, resurrected her, supported her, cherished her, and brought her to where she is today. Tibbits Opera House is an architecturally exquisite building, filled with opportunity for everyone in our community. We are entrusted with her well-being for the next 100-plus years.

All of that said, we continue to maintain the building, strategizing and planning for continued improvements and future restoration and renovation. We also continue to fill the theatre with arts, culture and entertainment with the same goals as those notable managers of the past—Barton Tibbits, Hulda Henning, John T. Jackson, and Denny Vanes. We offer a variety of “entertainments” the public is willing to pay to see! (They even added a bar in the late 1880s.)

Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council enjoyed a good year. We continue working to strengthen the organization and stabilize its financial base. There are so many who played a role in this year’s successes from the board of directors, to a dedicated, talented staff, plus hundreds of volunteers. We are also blessed with many generous donors who supported the theatre through membership, special events, and special projects like the boiler and heating fund.

Once again the generosity shown through planned giving made a huge impact as we received a gift from the estate of Mary Smith, and numerous other memorial gifts. We also saw an increase in donations to the Tibbits Opera House Endowment. Together they speak to the importance of our new ad hoc committee looking at planned giving and spreading the word on endowed gifts.

Our two newest revenue sources, the Ghost Light Bar and advertising in the summer theatre playbill, both proved profitable and worthwhile. We continue to look at ways to grow these and seek new revenue streams. Ultimately they allow us to provide the best possible programming at prices affordable to our community.

The value of a historic theatre to a community is immeasurable. Tibbits has both challenges and opportunities. Between the staff and the Board of Directors we have a great team who share a passion. We also have a strong core of patrons and donors who understand Tibbits’ value. As we work together we will continue to grow and thrive. We will continue to be good stewards of our community treasure.

Christine Delaney
Tibbits Executive Director
Board of Directors and Staff

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Rick Merrill*
President

Chris Donbrock*
Vice President

Wayne Weaver*
Treasurer

Laura Lutterbeck*
Secretary

J. Richard Colbeck*
Past President

Member-at-Large

Polly Locke*
Member-at-Large

Christine Delaney*
Executive Director

Mike Beckwith  Seth Berry
David Coyle  Diane Pridgeon
Ken Norton  Diane Harmon
Dylan Foster  John Bolton
Bonita Hoffner

*Denotes Executive Committee

2017-2018 Staff

Christine Delaney - Executive Director
Charles Burr - Artistic Director
Stephanie Burdick – Director of Operations
Larry Downs - Accounting Manager
Amy Crabtree - Special Events/Development
Matt Biolchini - Graphic Designer
Tirsha Odisher - Director of Audience Outreach
Andrew Harmon - Audience Services
Sean Delaney - Audience Services (summer)
Dave Brown - Facility Manager

Brandon Apmann - Assistant Facility Manager (until May)
Tyler Whitehead - Assistant Facility Manager (starting September)
Joan Spaulding - Building Assistant
Endowment funds support programming and maintenance for Tibbits Opera House. TOHE’s purpose is to ensure the long-term viability of the building and organization through endowed gifts. Of note this year is the growth of the set of funds within the endowment earmarked for children’s programming. (Marked with an * in the list below.)

Assistance from the TOHE this year helped with general maintenance and repair including repairs to the company truck, the old boiler, plumbing and the restroom sewage system (as well as emergency port-a-johns). For the enjoyment of our audiences, endowment funds purchased flowers for the garden, an industrial coffee pot and concession supplies, and additional hearing devices and ear pieces. Technology investments included improving the mobile and ticket purchasing experiences of the website, providing internet at the scene shop for the Summer Theatre tech crew, new backup power and transmitter for the backstage communication, and a ticket scanning device for the box office. Funds were also set aside for the pending liquor license. Programming funds assisted Summer Theatre and Tibbits Popcorn Theatre*.

TOHE was established 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, Dylan Foster, Brain Hodson, Ray Sebastian, and Christine Delaney.

Current funds within the endowment:

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.
### BALANCE SHEET – Operations

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Bar Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fixed</strong></td>
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<td>Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Less: Allowance For Depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Undepreciated Cost</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock CB&amp;T (71 Shares)</td>
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<td>Net Unreal Appre,</td>
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<td>Sustainability Fund - Temp Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$841,814</td>
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#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Liquor Concessions</td>
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<td>Employee Benefits - PTO</td>
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<td>Deferred Membership</td>
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<td>Deferred Income &amp; Deposits</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>LOC PNC &amp; CB&amp;T CL</td>
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<td>Retained Earnings</td>
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<td>Temp. Restricted Funds</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$306,182</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>$841,814</td>
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**REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts, Memorials, Trusts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Reimbursement</td>
<td>$ 16,292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Donated Services</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Special Programs</td>
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<td>TST Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Audience / School Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concessions, Raffles &amp; Tips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bar Income</td>
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<td>Less: COGS</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Theater Rental</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Summer Theater</td>
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<td>Programming</td>
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<td>General Employees Payroll</td>
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<td>Other G&amp;A</td>
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<td>Opera House G&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decrease in Net Assets</td>
<td>$ (11,994)</td>
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</tbody>
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Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W. Chicago Street
TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.
BALANCE SHEET - RESTORATION
For Year Ended September 30, 2018

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets Restricted</td>
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<td>SMB Money Market</td>
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<td>EJ Money Market/EJ</td>
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<td>Sound Acoustics System</td>
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<td>Boiler Installation</td>
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<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$118,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$154,683</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES - RESTORATION CAMPAIGN
For Year Ended September 30, 2018

REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividends</td>
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<td>Gifts</td>
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<td>Pavers</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
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EXPENSES

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
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<td>Printing/Plans</td>
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<td>Feasibility Study</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$118,810</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Audited financials are available at the administrative office, 93 W. Chicago Street
# Tibbits Opera House Endowment

## TOH Endowment Balance Sheet

*As of December 31, 2018*

### Assets

#### Current Assets
- Edward Jones Money Market/Cash: $21,866
- CD - Edward Jones - 1.9%: $50,000
- EJ Stocks: $96,272

#### Book Value Investments: $168,138

#### Gain in Market Value: $88,413

**Total Assets:** $256,551

### Liabilities & Equity

#### Equity
- Valuation Allowance: $88,413
- Permanently Restricted - General: $146,138
- Permanently Restricted - Children's Programming: $22,000

**Total Permanently Restricted:** $168,138

**Total Equity - Fair Market Value:** $256,551

**Note:**

*Gifts received for the year totaled $17,508.*
Tibbits Summer Theatre turned 55 years old in 2018. While the season still consisted of old and new shows, for the first time we did not do any of the classic musicals from the 1940’s to 1960’s. Our oldest show was written in 1971—a change that will likely continue as our audience demands shows of their generation.

First up was *Mixed Emotions*, a romantic comedy about finding love a second time around—and in the middle of moving. *Jesus Christ Superstar* exploded onto the stage, still proving slightly controversial after all these years. Brian Sage returned to play 8 characters in the audience favorite, *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* in its first US production after the national tour. It was a musical that demanded huge backstage forces and it is a testament to clever set and costume design (and a crew that would do anything to make the show work) that we were able to pull it off. The final play, *Resident Alien*, was a thoughtful comedy about finding your place in the world.

It is hard to believe that we have been doing theatre for the young for 31 years now. The summer company was responsible for three productions. They included a new show to popcorn theatre with *The Last of the Dragons*. We revisited one of the most beloved stories with another production of *Charlotte’s Web*. Our third production was a brand new adaption of the Grimm Fairy Tale, *The Boy who Knew No Fear*, called *Shiver and Shake*. The author, Lainie Vansant attended the world premiere of her play. We also brought in the frenetic show *Cirque Amongus*. We concluded with a *Cartoon Cavalcade*, showing three classic short animated films in the first half and the feature *The Sword in the Stone* for the second.

While total season attendance was down from the previous year we still had several successes: *Jesus Christ Superstar* reached number 5 in attendance over the past 10 years. *Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* became number 7 which was outstanding for a show most people had not heard of before. *Charlotte’s Web* reached number one for Popcorn Theatre attendance in the last 10 years; interestingly, the 2012 version holds number 2 on the list. With the addition of new income from the liquor license and advertising in the playbill which we self-produced for the first time, summer theatre had one its strongest financial showings in years.

For a third year, we had a dark week between shows. A musical revue traveled to three restaurants in markets where we wanted to spread the word about TST. Audiences were responsive and got to see and hear many of the actors do a wide variety of Broadway material.

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.

*Charles Burr*
Artistic Director Tibbits Summer Theatre
2018 Tibbits Summer Theatre & Sponsors

**Mixed Emotions**
Parrish Excavating

**Jesus Christ Superstar**
Vandervoort, Christ, & Fisher, P.C.

**A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder**
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities

**Resident Alien**
PNC Bank

**Tibbits Popcorn Theatre**
*Dr. Jon & Seibra Herbener*

**Last of the Dragons**
Coldwater Exchange Club

**Charlotte’s Web**
Great Lakes Chiropractic

**Cirque Amongus**
Edward Jones: Tracy Kelley, Jay Wright, Michael Hanson

**Shiver & Shake**
*Dr. Matthew C. Christopher, DDS*

**Classic Cartoon Cavalcade**
Honor Credit Union

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*Charlotte’s Web* was very popular with the opening performance a sell-out.

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*Artists*
Artwork for the shows provided by: Joe Ramos, Simon Thalmann, Fernando Bauzo, and Matt Biolchini
Production photos by *Stan Clayton/Classic Portraits and **Lisa Lawrence

**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, Tibbits Opera House Endowment and TOHE fund for Children’s Programming.

Popcorn Theatre also received support from Dr. Ed Lake and McDonald’s of Branch and Hillsdale Counties The Maynard Organization.
Tibbits Annual Auction – Nov. 4, 2017
The 38th Annual Auction “Tibbits Olde West” grossed $65,535 with a net profit of $58,788. Over 300 guests saddled up and stepped back in time to an era long since forgotten for Tibbits’ largest fundraiser of the year. Covered wagons, cowboys, western chow, and gold nuggets were staples of the annual auction. A first time caterer for this event, Tasteful Kreations provided tasty western fare and drinks were served from two of the local saloons in the theatre. Guests had the opportunity to participate at the Spirit Station wine pull as well as pose for a picture at the selfie station. Volunteers diligently sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle and large raffle which offered a grand prize drawing of $1000.

Darren Spieth and Dan Satow, owners of Spieth and Satow Auctioneers, greeted the audience and played a game with the crowd to kick off the live auction. The first item up for bid was a large basket completely stocked with all chocolate items donated by the auction committee. A proven bidder favorite each year, a complete orthodontic treatment donated by Dr. Baron Whately garnered the highest bid of the evening. Other high bid items included a Crystal Mountain getaway donated by Royal Chevrolet, dinners donated by Rick and Kathy Merrill, a $1000 shopping experience donated by Kiess Jewelry, and the Barton S. Tibbits Sponsorship. The auction saw almost 700 donated items. Many community members, local and non-local businesses graciously donated a variety of items including services, gift cards and certificates, electronics, home supplies, sports memorabilia, jewelry, and more. Tibbits Olde West 2017 Annual Auction would not have been a success without the ever-supportive community members, donors, volunteers, and sponsors that participated in the event.

Amy Crabtree
Special Events
Tibbits Annual Golf Outing- June 22, 2018

Seventeen teams enjoyed 18-holes of golf on June 22 at the Tibbits Annual Golf Outing. The volunteer golf committee voted once again for the popular best-ball golf scramble format for the outing after many golfers expressed how much they enjoyed the mid-morning shot gun start last year. While rain dampened the beginning of the outing, the weather broke and allowed all teams to complete the scramble before more rain moved in later in the afternoon. Despite the rainy conditions, every team registered to play came to support Tibbits making the 2018 Annual Golf Outing a success.

The 18-hole event kicked off mid-morning at the Coldwater Golf Course and also included raffles, door prizes, games, a beverage cart, and beverage stations. Bill’s Grill House grilled out and golfers were able to get lunch on the go.

Royal Chevrolet was the Title Sponsor of the event for the first time. The Foundation Golf Center sponsored the Large Raffle and first prize was a new set of Calloway golf irons. Many golfers walked away with prizes including gift cards and golf balls.

The 2018 Tibbits Golf Outing was Tibbits’ highest grossing golf event since 2009. The total revenue generated was $16,728 with an approximate profit of $12,764.

The next Tibbits Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for June 21, 2019 at the Coldwater Golf Course.
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## Attendance

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<td>&quot;Two Sides of Marilyn&quot;</td>
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### Summary

**108 Total Events**

- **28,398 Total Including Performers**
- **9,702 Total Children Served**

*Includes performers*

- **255 Days of Use**
- **25 Community Events**
- **67 Tibbits Events**
- **5 Partnership Events**
- **11 Private Events**
Empowering youth with quality arts experiences and supporting and supplementing the arts education offered by the schools is the entire focus of Tibbits Young Audiences.

Tibbits Young Audiences (TYA) usually produces two shows a year, a fall show and a spring musical under the direction of several qualified volunteers. This year TYA partnered with Pines Behavioral Health and their Profound Impact Performance Troupe (PIPT) for a third show. The productions provide the youth of the area with what is sometimes their only opportunity to participate in a performance-based activity. They learn leadership, responsibility, teamwork and creativity all while having a lot of fun. They experience the satisfaction and pride in seeing their hard work and talent put on display and applauded.

The spring musical *Tied to the Tracks* starred a cast and crew of 49 young people and was directed by Julia Littley and Kathleen Farrand. This action-packed old time musical western melodrama followed the story of stalwart Sheriff Billy Bold (Ryan Smith) and the delicate Dakota Melody (Lexi Galliers) as they resisted the evil machinations of Silias Scavenger (Ian Hollingworth) and Wild Prairie Rose (Alex Stewart) in this shoot-'em-up, round-'em-up extravaganza.

In the summer, TYA partnered with the PIPT to present the beloved musical *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast JR.* It was a fantastic adaptation of the story of transformation and tolerance. It tells of Belle (Ashlyn Britton), a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast (Colin Frank), who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self, if not he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. Through the partnership with Pines the cast learned how the show addressed the topics of bullying, substance abuse, and mental health.

The fall show *If the Shoe Fits* was a modern twist of the story of Cinderella. Prince Owen (Ryan Smith), from the Kingdom of Kravitz, is ready to go to college and study computers, but instead he must attend his graduation ball and choose a bride. All of the eligible girls in the kingdom will be there, including the Royal Fan Club. Audiences were entertained as they watched to see if Prince Owen would marry Cinderella (Ally Aker), who just wants to study music and flee her evil stepmother’s (Bianca Hubbard) house, or if the wicked Valda (Corrin Cook) and the Python Gang would succeed in kidnapping the prince and replacing him with a mechanical duplicate. Forty-six young people between fourth and eighth grades under the direction of Jayne Lillis presented this successful play. Tirsha Odisher acted as producer of all three shows and she was assisted by many parents and volunteers.
Tibbits Theatre and Beyond (T-TAB) builds confidence and develops leadership skills for students in grades 6-12 who are interested in being more involved with theatre at Tibbits. The group was very busy in 2017-2018 with a workshop, working behind the scenes for both TYA and Summer Theatre, and promoting the theatre at community events. During Tibbits Summer Theatre T-TAB members ran spotlights, were part of stage crew, and ushered. They also comprised the stage crew for both TYA shows. Some members also offered face painting at community events promoting Tibbits.

Every spring T-TAB members produce the “Spotlight on Teen Talent” competition. They audition acts and decide which will perform and determine the order for the show. T-TAB members also do everything backstage for the show, including running the lights, sounds, and set with minimal assistance from the adults.

In early summer T-TAB members produced a 10-Day Film Contest for Teens which was open to all teens in Branch and the surrounding counties. There were two teams consisting of a total of nine teens who wrote, recorded, and edited short films based on random sets of criteria given out at the start of the contest. A public screening of the films was held at the theatre where a panel of judges gave awards in various categories.

In July, T-TAB members participated in a workshop by the Tibbits Summer Theatre costume designer, Marc Vital II. He took the members through his creative process. They were able to see all the steps involved in creating a costume from start to finish. They were also able to participate in creating costumes for the characters in the Popcorn Theatre production of Charlotte’s Web. The work of the T-TAB members was actually featured on stage!

Thank you to Kiwanis for generously sponsoring the TYA program. Support also received from M. Rosenberg.
Over 3,000 students and teachers were given the opportunity to see live professional shows during our school programming series, which featured Wild Swan’s *American Short & Tall Tales*, *A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories*, and *Shipwrecked*, along with *The Science of Pirates* and Michigan Shakespeare Festival’s *Romeo & Juliet*.

Classrooms attended from local schools including Lakeland, Jefferson, St. Mary’s, Ryan Elementary, St. Charles Borromeo, Max Larsen, Pansophia Academy, Union City Elementary, Legg Middle School, Hanover Horton, Quincy High School, and Reading High School, along with several homeschool groups. Neighboring Indiana schools attending include Carlin Park from Angola, Indiana and Fremont High School from Fremont, Indiana.

Response to all shows was favorable. Most of them had interactive portions within the show. All of them included talkback sessions after the performances which gave students an additional opportunity to engage in discussion with the performers.

Tibbits school programming is funded with the support of ASAMA Coldwater Manufacturing and membership support of the Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council. Inc.

These activities are also funded in part by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL.
Entertainment Series

Much anticipation surrounded the return visit of Jeff Daniels in November of 2017, along with his son Ben and the Ben Daniels band. Jeff told stories and the band played to a sold-out house that was buzzing with excitement from the start to the end of the night.

2018 started off with another sold-out show as The Best of the Eagles, an Eagles tribute band, took the stage in January in conjunction with the Coldwater Icefest. The audience enjoyed the classic rock and roll sound which featured veteran musicians from central New Jersey.

The 5th Annual Comedy Fest in March featured Last Comic Standing finalist headliner Michael Palascak along with featured comic Jim Flannigan and emcee Dusty Slay. With another full house, laughter filled the auditorium for this event, which was also promoted as a St. Patrick’s Day Bash with specialty Irish-themed drinks at the Ghost Light Bar.

Foreigners Journey, which was the featured band of the 2017 Icefest concert, came back in July due to popular demand. Though it wasn’t a sell-out night, attendance was good. We kicked off National Hispanic Heritage Month with a concert by Los Bandits de Michigan, which included the band’s signature Tex-Mex style of music, led by Rene Meave.

Though the Entertainment Series had fewer events than 2016-2017, we expanded our Classic Film Series offerings, added a Cinco de Mayo event, expanded our events with Arts Alive, and took on a partnership with Profound Impact to produce a summer kids show.
Arts Alive & Kids Art Rocks!

Arts Alive hosted seven exhibits, two downtown Art Walks, and added a new holiday event to their plate this year along with assuming responsibilities for the Kids’ Art Rocks! program.

Gallery shows included *Fancy Footwork, In the Greens, A Feminine Twist, Achoo: The Sights and Sounds of Spring, Pops of Color, Smitten with the Mitten, and A is for Animal*. The quantity of the pieces increased exponentially, partially due to fresh, new designs created by Tibbits graphic designer Matt Biolchini to announce the shows, and greater awareness of events through additional social media presence and press releases by new Arts Alive member Stephanie Burdick.

The bank account for Arts Alive was looking bleak at the start of 2017, since gallery shows had a limited amount of pieces entered and ArtWalk didn’t provide funding beyond covering the cost of the advertisements. Instead, the group decided to hold a new event, *The Art of Holiday Food, Drink, and Décor*, which featured artisan vendors and food on the lower level and drink and décor demonstrations on the upper level. There was a big giveaway at the end of the night. In all, it was a profitable new event but definitely needed to be tweaked for the next year. The committee used some of the funds to purchase a new more efficient hanging system for the art gallery.

The fall 2017 ArtWalk was status quo with local and regional artists and musicians hosted inside area businesses. A small Arts Alive committee of Deb Thenen, Stephanie Burdick and Darcy Gaff revamped the spring 2018 ArtWalk to also include food trucks, cash prizes for artists, and an outdoor concert with The Dog Bone Blues on the terrace of Tibbits (which unfortunately had to be moved inside due to weather). In preparation for the concert, Hanchett St. was closed down, an outdoor alcohol permit was secured, and a crowd favorite—chalk on the wall of State Farm was provided by professional chalkers to inspire ArtWalk attendees to create their own chalk art.

The spring ArtWalk also coincided with the Kids Art Rocks reception, which recognized 15 student artists for the year-long business lease program, along with another 45 students who submitted work for the newly formatted open submission contest. KAR committee members Stan and Judy Bushhouse, Deb Thenen, Ruth Scheidler and Stephanie Burdick secured judges for the new format, publicized, framed and hung the winners’ artwork, and held the reception which attracted many of the students and their families.
Grant Programs

- 2018 Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Operational Support grant $21,000
- 2018 MCACA Capital Improvement grant $20,000 towards the replacement of the boilers.
- Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) grant for Tibbits historical display for $14,000.
- Michigan Humanities Council Touring Arts Grants
  - Wild Swan Theatre, Shipwrecked $450
  - Wild Swan Theatre, American Short & Tall Tales $460
  - Wild Swan Theatre, Honey Pot of Pooh Stories $460
  - Cirque Amongus, Popcorn Theatre $806
- MHC Quick Grant $750 for Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- Branch County Community Foundation $1,900 towards the replacement of the boilers
- F. Harold and Lillian Creal Fund at the BCCF $10,000 for the microphones and sound equipment to mic actors for the musicals of summer theatre.

For Tibbits, serving the entire community means finding ways to build bridges and offer programming with and for all populations. The largest minority populations in Coldwater are 1st Arab and 2nd Latino. Extensive efforts have brought the Arab community to the theatre over the past three years. This year additional attention was placed on programming for the Latino community.
**Membership**

“Performing at the historical and wonderful Tibbits Opera House was among my most memorable venues during my 2017 tour of the United States. I strongly recommend that you continue to support Tibbits Opera House so that future generations may enjoy the world of entertainment.”

~ Ed Asner

For over 137 years, Tibbits has stood the test of time. It stands as a tribute to an era long forgotten and as a symbol to the generations who will strive to keep it alive and vibrant. Built in 1882 and a vision of Barton S. Tibbits, Tibbits Opera House remains the heart of our community.

The legacy and future of Tibbits is possible by those who support and believe in her through a Tibbits Membership. Memberships help maintain a vital piece of history and sustain the general operation of the theatre, keeping it an active community asset. Donations supplement ticket sales, support many of the programs, and keep the theatre accessible.

As a staple of our community, as well as surrounding communities, memberships allow Tibbits to offer programs that excite and encourage children to experience and appreciate arts and culture. In a world consumed with the internet, social media, and video games as sources of entertainment, Tibbits brings live, authentic talent to the stage. It also inspires hopes and dreams of many aspiring actors, musicians, dancers and artists. Without the generosity of our loyal donors and memberships, Tibbits would not be the home for school productions, community theatre, community band, area dance studios, Arts Alive, and other local organizations.

342 corporate and individual members in 2017-2018 donated $104,783.

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**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.

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>2012 - 2013</td>
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<td>2002 - 2011</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Norma Geishert (10 years)</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Ed Geishert</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Harold &amp; Jane Schultz</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>Harold &amp; Jane Schultz (9 years)</td>
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<td>Irv &amp; Catherine Harris</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Sylvia Geishert</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986 - 1987</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Marie Bettinger (2 years)</td>
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Tibbits members are the foundation for this historic theatre. 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, Tibbits.org

Individual Members

Individual contributors are recognized according to the following categories:

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Curtain Raiser
Dave & Caroline Austin
Ken & Becky Bible
Douglas & Sharon Bloom
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David & Carol Coyle
Dan & Judy Dobson
M. Marie Emerson
Frank Brown & Debra Guilford
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Martha Newberry  
Wava Oberlin  
A Grand Occasion  
Mary Paradise  
Coldwater Swap Meet/Car Show  
Sheila Walrack
CORPORATE MEMBERS

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.

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Dally Tire Company
Nichols Accounting & Tax Services
Taylor, Plant & Watkins PC

Corporate Director

Century Bank & Trust
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities
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Corporate Angel

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Hilliard Lyons - Tod Dally
Kiess Jewelry
Marble Lake Resort & Marina
Maroa Farms/Mastronardi Produce
Star of the West Milling
Willows Bar & Grill
Volunteers donated 7,480 hours to Tibbits Opera House during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. There were 324 active volunteers. The monetary value of these donated hours equals $184,681. We thank each and every volunteer for being a vital part of the success of the Tibbits organization.

Only hours submitted by volunteers themselves are tracked and recorded.

Volunteers have the opportunity to get involved with Tibbits and show their support through various jobs. Some of these roles include assisting with office projects, ushering at events and shows, bartending and concessions, beautification of the theatre, giving theatre tours, helping with decorating and organizing special events, distributing flyers and brochures, and recruiting new volunteers.

Volunteers are the heart of Tibbits. The support and hours of service they provide to the theatre is priceless. We cannot provide enough thanks, but we continue to try. We hold an Annual Volunteer Reception every April and recognize outstanding efforts throughout the year.

For our 2018 Volunteer Reception many volunteers earned pins indicating they had reached certain hour milestones. Longtime volunteer, Angie Washburn, was selected as Tibbits Volunteer of the Year. Angie served as Booster President for many years. She has a lengthy volunteer history with Tibbits and has served as a house manager, usher, bartender, as well as assisting in the main office, with special events, and various other projects accumulating more than 2700 total hours.

Tibbits Volunteer Organization transitioned through many changes over the last fiscal year. After the former Booster leadership disbanded in late 2017, Executive Director Christine Delaney and Volunteer Liaison Amy Crabtree decided to move toward a committee-based structure with the support of the Foundation Board of Directors. The committees highlight and focus on the direct needs of the theatre, with the intent that volunteers will be able to work together as a team to maintain these new committees and carry out the various tasks for the theatre. Tibbits’ primary needs center around event support, but also include promotion, recruitment, office assistance, and theatre beautification. Volunteer committees will be responsible for every facet of their role. Many positive changes and new leadership roles have arisen through the process. While it is still a work in progress, this concept seems to be positive. We will continue to adjust and change through the coming year.

Tibbits would like to thank our devoted volunteers for their time, service, and ever-appreciated support.

New Committees
- Audience Services
- Beautification
- Events
- Office Support
- Recruitment and Retention
- Tours and Community Events

Angie Washburn receives Volunteer of the Year recognition for her years of service and more than 2700 hours.
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Volunteer Reception
Volunteers

Curtis S Odom
Laura Odom
Sarah Grace Odom
Jeff Paarlberg
Lauren Palmer
Stephanie Paradine
Dick Pask
Nicole Paul
Anna Payne
Jessica Payne
Valeria Pereira Brown
Steve Pickell
Jessie Pickell
MacKenzie Pickell
Alex Pickell
Sharon Powell
Jeffrey Powell
Diane Pridgeon
Mike Pridgeon
Quincy Drama Society
Raeanne Renner
Dennis Riegel
Diane Riegel
Kay Riegel
Rox Ann Ringer
Brad Rockey
Kristina Rogovich
Pete Rogovich
Lily Roscoe
Marvin Rosenberg
Kara Rowe
Rege Rupp
Deanna L Rupp
Gail Russell
Victoria Ruthrauff
Christina L Rutz
Rachel Rutz
Gabriela Rutz
Steve Rutz
Darene Sargent
Rachel Sarles
Charlene Searing
Michael Searing
Mackenzie Searing
Raymond Sebastian
Janet Shidler
Bev Siefken
Lisa Slusarski

These volunteers were recognized for 100, 200, 300, 400 (not pictured) and 500 hours of service at the volunteer reception.

Madeline Smith
Dee Smith
Julie Smith
Rob Smith
Keli Smith
Megan Smith
Ron Smith
Lauren Smith
Shirley Snyder
Judy Sours
Brandie Sours
Jazmyne Sours
Clarissa Spaulding
Olivia Spaulding
Joan Spaulding
Nancy J. Sprow
Kristie Stewart
Lucas Stewart
Alexandra Stewart
Sandra Stiles
Crystal Stoner
Norbert P Strobel
Lou Stuckey

Mike Sutton
Jaden Swartz
Michelle Swift
Mary Tate
Marisue Taylor
Gina Teeple
Carol Tinervia
Sandra Tremblay
Molly VanStone
Mallory VanWagner
Kera Volkmer
Avery Volkmer
Tara Volkmer
Anna-Marie Vorce
Karen Walker
Renita Wallen
Dean Walrack
Angie Washburn
Ken Washburn
Erin Washburn
Joan Waterbury
Wayne Weaver
James White

Kitty Wilcox
Jessica Witmer
Pat Woirol
Paul Woirol
Hope Wolverton
Connie Wood
Caitlyn Woodcox
Gina Wright
Mary Wymer
Bob Wymer
Monica Wyss
Dorothy Young
Sadie Youse
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. Following is a partial list of the organizations who benefited from Tibbits’ community service:

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<th>Altrusa</th>
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<td>Animal Rescue Fund of St. Joseph</td>
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<td>Beginnings Care for Life</td>
<td>Meadow View</td>
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<td>Michigan Historic Preservation Network</td>
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<td>CHS NHS Project for Special Needs Students</td>
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Branch County Community Theatre

BCCT maintains a strong and long association with the Tibbits Foundation and continues in its efforts to sustain theatrical arts in Branch County. A typical annual season involves four shows performed on the opera house stage and in addition, numerous contributions of monetary nature as well as in-kind efforts associated with the artistic and theatrical endeavors of the foundation.

This past year, the community theatre presented “Arsenic and Old Lace,” the Christmas show “The Gift of the Magi,” “Final Appearance,” an original comedy as part of the Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting Excellence, and the musical “Legally Blonde” which was a rather successful box office endeavor.

Community Theatre membership has been a valuable asset to the foundation serving in many capacities, including volunteering for activities both on stage and off, and in general administration of the foundation.

BCCT and its 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 years of partnership and growth together.

_JR Colbeck_
President, Branch County Community Theatre
**Memorials**

**Mary Smith**  
*(June 23, 1915 – Nov. 24, 2017)*

How can words sufficiently express how much Mary Smith meant to Tibbits Opera House, the staff, the board, the volunteers, and all who dedicated time, talent and donations for the historic theatre? She shared Tibbits with everyone she met. She gave encouragement and support to those of us working to keep the theatre strong. She gave us her time and her heart.

How she relished telling the story of her first date sitting in the balcony of the opera house for a movie. The theatre promised some of the culture of her home town of Chicago allowing her to say yes to Woody’s marriage proposal. From that decision Coldwater was blessed with her involvement for more than 80 years.

Mary was an integral part of the team that raised the funds to make the theatre accessible and, of course, restore its glorious exterior. She was one of the few people in the community who actually remembered the original theatre. She stood with the rest of us admiring with awe and pride at the community’s accomplishment once the scaffolding came down.

Mary Smith became Tibbits’ great ambassador, but she was more than that. She truly believed in the theatre, what it means to the community. She cherished being a part of it, enjoying the cast and crew or special guests who appeared on stage, attending almost every show, always in her favorite seats in the second row on the aisle.

**Erland Gleason**  
*(March 20, 1945–Oct. 12, 2017)*

A friend to Tibbits for many years, Erl Gleason demonstrated how the arts, theatre and music can be an integral part of our lives. He spent many years involved with Branch County Community Theatre and spent much time “on the boards” of the stage. Whether at Tibbits Opera House or the Sauk Theatre or in church, he performed, he acted, he sang, he shared his talents with those around him.

Erl served on the Board of Directors for Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council from 2001 through 2012, first as representative of the BCCT and later as president of the board (2007-08). We are grateful he chose to share time and talents with Tibbits Opera House and by extension the entire community.

**Debbie Jersey**  
*(Oct. 5, 1948–Nov. 25, 2017)*

A longtime theatre friend and volunteer, Debbie Jersey was active in so many areas for nearly three decades. Her particular love was Summer Theatre, serving on the planning committee for many years. She designed the Summer Theatre programs up until a few years ago. She ushered regularly, distributed brochures, and helped in the gift shop, the costume shop, and concessions. Always active with Branch County Community Theatre, she spent plenty of time on and back stage of the theatre. This past summer she even appeared on stage as one of the sisters in Tibbits Summer Theatre’s production of *Damn Yankees*, holding her own alongside Tibbits veteran Donna Schulte. Debbie’s fun spirit, warm heart and ready helping hand will be sorely missed.

---

**Memorial Gifts Received**

- Thelma Bloom
- Christine Forrester
- Erland Gleason
- Audrey Hostetler
- Mary Smith
- Deacon Gerald Smoker
- Phyllis Stankewicz
- Warren Widener
Tibbits Building Committee has been busy on all fronts overseeing the continued maintenance, operations and future planning for the theatre and its facilities.

Highlights for the year include heat and sound! We replaced the boilers that service the entire theatre and also added a unit to both heat and cool the box office and the south lobby which is our accessible entrance and houses the new Ghost Light Bar and the elevator. Thanks to the generosity of our area service clubs, the Smith Memorial, the Clemens Food Group challenge and so many individuals, that entire project is finished and paid in full.

Through the support of the F. Harold and Lillian Creal Fund at the Branch County Community Foundation we also made another investment into the sound system adding body microphones for the actors during summer theatre. The committee continues to evaluate and prioritize projects to improve sound, electric, plumbing and other infrastructure needs and balance those with the ongoing operations and available funding.

While full restoration remains the vision and plans and ideas continue, until that time the committee keeps moving forward one project at a time.

Tibbits Building Committee: Mike Beckwith, Chair, Hal Bair, Keith Baker, Seth Berry, Andy Bracy, Dave Brown, Christine Delaney, Rick Merrill, Jim White

Boiler Support
Thank you to the following who generously supported our boiler project!

MCACA
Coldwater Rotary Club
Coldwater Exchange Club
Brian & Nancy Nunemaker
Coldwater Kiwanis Club
Coldwater Sunrise Rotary
S. Meister & D. Danielson/CA Inc.
Nancy Sprow
Clemens Food Group (challenge)
Linda McNitt
Wava Gano
Smith Memorial Concert
Vena Wade
Ray & Fran Breggar
Lorraine Clyne Memorials
MGU/ Efficiency UNITED
Branch Co. Comm. Theatre
Take Care of Sarasota
Elaine Moore
Don & Luba Fry
Altrusa International/ Branch Co.
Quincy Rotary Club
Linda Knirk
Misc. Donors
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.