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.
President’s Message

I am delighted to share this 2019 Annual Report which highlights the great things that have happened at Tibbits Opera House over the past year. The year started out with a bang with Classic Stones Live, a Rolling Stones tribute band, followed by Comedy Fest; Paula Poundstone and Roomful of Blues. Then we had our exciting summer theater presentations, often filling the house, which included, among others, the ever popular Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and West Side Story. In mid-summer, BritBeat, a Beatles tribute band, provided a great chronology of their life and music. We did all of this plus had the TYA, Arts Alive, Branch County Community Theater, Classic Films and many other private events. Oh, we even threw a party in the fall honoring Tibbits 137th birthday and being put on the National Historic register!

During the year, in an effort to expand our offerings, enlarge our audience base and address relevant, current issues, we formed new partnerships with several other non-profits to offer several performances. In the spring, the film, Ring of Silence, a moving, educational story about sex trafficking, was provided multiple times throughout the day. It was open to the public as well as school age kids with an open Q&A after each performance. Then in the fall, the play Next to Normal, a 2008 American rock musical was presented. This story centered on a mother who struggles with bipolar disorder and the effects that managing her illness has on her family. Both programs were well received and we are interested in doing other collaborations in the future.

The times are a changin’ and we plan to keep up. We are about to kick off our endowment campaign to increase our endowment for the sustainability of great future programming and operations and maintenance of the theater. We completed an Historical Structures Report which you will hear more about soon. Based on this report, our Building Committee continues to look at and prioritize additional future improvements to items such as the electrical systems to provide better lighting and safety during shows, and, high on the list, plumbing!

As evidenced by this year’s programming which includes a fan favorite, Annie, we plan to continue to bring in quality shows, tribute bands, and other guest artists as well as look at other venues to expand our programming and audience reach. And, of course, we plan on continuing to present exciting new productions which have been recently released, along with audience favorites. Stay tuned during the coming year for more changes at Tibbits!

At this time, I would be remiss to not mention the passing of JR Colbeck this year. Under his leadership and guidance, many of the changes in the recent past and what Tibbits will experience in the future, whether big or small, were started under his watch as President of the Board of Directors. He was strongly committed to Tibbits and the theater, and fully understood our role in the community and in the power of art to change lives. We all will miss him deeply.

Finally, as has been referenced, I am sure, by many Theater Board Presidents of nonprofits, the accomplishments noted above and in the annual report would not have occurred without support of our patrons, our very generous donors, the artists/technicians/stagehands that graced our stage, the endless endeavors of the Tibbits staff and the leadership and support of the Board of Directors. You all helped make 2019 a great success and I look forward to another tremendous year in 2020.

Hope to see you at the theater!

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

"We need to invest in these arts organizations, like the Tibbits...Not only are we getting cultural benefits, we're drawing people to the community, and they're spending money, and we're keeping our neighbors and their hard-earned discretionary dollars right here in town. Good for local restaurants, good for the hoteliers, good for tourism.....Small investment, big return is what you get from supporting the arts."   ~ Randy Cohen, VP Research & Policy for Americans for the Arts

Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council enjoyed another very good year. Excellent ticket sales, generous donations, and new revenue streams continue to strengthen the organization. Add to these items the hard work and passionate commitment of staff and volunteers, and you have a nonprofit business of which we can all be very proud.

I stress Tibbits is a business. On my office wall I have a sign, “Nonprofit is a tax status, not a business plan.” Randy Cohen, in an interview with Ken Delaney on WTVB said, “Arts organizations nationally are a $166 billion industry.” With plenty of data and real numbers to back up the value of organizations like Tibbits, Cohen and his team measure the financial impact the art have on the community. Tibbits’ impact is nearly $1.5 million. Cohen summarized, “A vibrant arts community is good for local businesses.” Tibbits is good for local businesses.

The value as a nonprofit though, cannot be understated. We ARE driven by a mission. Ours is to provide arts and culture and preserve the historic theatre. The balance we must maintain is fulfilling that mission in a fiscally responsible way. We could not do what we do without the financial support of our members, donors, sponsors and grantors. It is through this support that we can offer unique programs purely for their value to the community.

Case in point, this year’s production of the musical Next to Normal. Through an amazing partnership with Pines Behavioral Health and ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital, Tibbits was able to produce this outstanding show which dealt with the timely issue of mental illness. I could not be more proud of the quality of the show, the partnership, and what we achieved. For everyone involved, a show like this is why we do what we do. It demonstrated the power of theatre. It could only happen with the financial support of the partners. The show about broke even, but its impact was huge! (Read more on p. 21)

We continue to strive for a balance in our programming. Offering quality artistic endeavors as well as popular entertainment. Playing it safe on some events so we can take a risk on others. Staying aware of the community and seeking opportunities to meet its needs. At the same time we have established a regional presence and will continue to expand the theatre’s reach.

Tibbits Opera House is 137 years old. She has a beautiful face that has garnered plenty of attention, won the pride of the community, and demonstrated her worth. But inside she is worn with a very long list of needs. The board, staff and building committee have gone to great lengths to prioritize the needs. This past year Tom Roberts Architect completed a Historic Structures Report to help further define possible options so we may continue to preserve and protect the building. The road ahead continues to offer challenges and opportunities. We will continue to do our best to be the very best stewards of this community treasure.

Christine Delaney, Executive Director
Board of Directors and Staff

2018-2019 Board of Directors

Rick Merrill*
President

Chris Donbrock*
Vice President

Wayne Weaver*
Treasurer

Seth Berry*
Secretary

J. Richard Colbeck*
Past President

Polly Locke*
Member-at-Large

David Coyle*
Member-at-Large

Christine Delaney*
Executive Director

Jose Albarran, Mike Beckwith, John Bolton, Donna Gardner, Diane Harmon, Bonita Hoffner, Joe Hughes, Ken Norton, Diane Pridgeon

*Denotes Executive Committee

2018-2019 Staff

Christine Delaney - Executive Director
Charles Burr - Artistic Director
Stephanie Burdick – Director of Operations
Larry Downs - Accounting Manager
Amy Crabtree - Special Events (until Aug 2019)
Matt Biolchini - Graphic Designer
Tirsha Odisher - Director of Audience Services
Julia Littley - Audience Services
Chloe Butler - Audience Services (starting Sept 2019)
Sean Delaney - Audience Services (summer)
Dave Brown - Facility Manager
Joan Spaulding - Building Assistant
Angie Washburn - Auction Coordinator (starting Aug 2019)
**Tibbits Endowment**

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. A total of $19,309 was received in new gifts to the endowment. Graciously, Diane Pridg-eon and Susanne Wise named TOHE as the beneficiary of their annual concert in memory of Ruth, Robert, Douglas, and Dean Smith.

Throughout the year Tibbits Foundation requests funds for specific purposes under the TOHE guidelines. This year Tibbits Foundation received maintenance funds for a comprehensive inspection and upkeep of the façade as well as deep cleaning of the theatre’s kitchen and restrooms. Funds also purchased new theatrical lighting instruments as well as parts and replacement bulbs for the projector and existing lighting instruments. An investment was made in an iPad Pro to facilitate the extensive design work the theatre marketing now requires as well as upgrade of all computers to Windows 10. For patron or audience services, the endowment purchased a decorative rope for the balcony, new A-frame signs, signage for inside the theatre, and brochure holders. Programming funds supported Tibbits Summer Theatre and the Theatre Youth Workshop (Children’s Prog. Fund). A small amount also helped decoration and planters around the theatre and materials to house Tibbits’ extensive archives.

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 Tod Dally (president), Ken Delaney (vice president), Ray Sebastian (secretary), Jim Gordon (treasurer), J. Richard Colbeck, Dylan Foster, Wayne Weaver, and Christine Delaney.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current funds within the endowment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold J. “Dutch” Meier, M.D. Endowment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria &amp; Norman Hawk and Gretchen &amp; Raymond Dresser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen &amp; Eileen Barnett Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Fitzgerald Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin &amp; Phyllis Rosenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund for Children’s Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma, Meredith and Madelynn Grife Fund-Children’s Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Lomik-Children’s Programming Memorial Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olga F. Wright – Children’s Programming Endowment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 and their attorneys about gifting options.
# TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

## BALANCE SHEET – Operations
For Year Ended September 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bar Inventory</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,563</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shop Building</td>
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<td>Computers/Software/Electronics</td>
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<td>ML Liquor License</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>$12,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theatre &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>$2,327,030</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,652,990</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less: Allowance For Depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$(1,005,702)</td>
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<td><strong>Undepreciated Cost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>Stock CB&amp;T(71 Shares)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Unreal Appreci,</td>
<td>$1,274</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sustainability Fund - Temp Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,966,503</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Credit Cards</td>
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<td>Liquor Concessions</td>
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<td>Endowment</td>
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<td>Employee Benefits - PTO</td>
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<td>Deferred Membership</td>
<td>$34,730</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deferred Income &amp; Deposits</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOC PNC &amp; CB&amp;T CL</td>
<td>$56,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$123,452</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term</strong></td>
<td>Mortgage Loan CB&amp;T</td>
<td>$53,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deferred Revenue Restricted - LT</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$333,580</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>$1,448,636</td>
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<td>Temp. Restricted Funds</td>
<td>$74,960</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$(14,125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,509,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,966,503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, 2019

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants $ 317,834
  Grants $ 56,980
  Membership Dues $ 101,483
  Gifts, Memorials, Trusts $ 132,581
  Endowment Reimbursement $ 15,638
  Miscellaneous $ 907
  Donated Services $ 10,245

Program Services $ 367,015
  Special Programs $ 77,359
  TST Revenue $ 246,257
  Young Audience / School Programming $ 29,644
  Concessions, Raffles & Tips $ 13,755

Bar Income $ 17,594
  Less: COGS $(7,034)

Fundraising - Auction & Golf $ 82,549
  Theater Rental $ 30,331
  Sustainability Unrealized $ 23,078

TOTAL REVENUE $ 831,367

EXPENSES

Program Services $ 393,253
  Summer Theater $ 279,300
  Programming $ 113,953

Supporting Services $ 314,222
  General Employees Payroll $ 244,769
  Fundraising Special Events $ 9,298
  Other G&A $ 60,155

Opera House G&A $ 52,392

Interest Expense $ 15,700

TOTAL EXPENSES (Before Depreciation & Sustainability Exp $ 775,567
  Depreciation $ 65,000
  Sustainability Expense $ 4,925

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 845,492

Decrease in Net Assets $ (14,125)
TIBBITS OPERA FOUNDATION AND ARTS COUNCIL, INC.
BALANCE SHEET - RESTORATION
For Year Ended September 30, 2019

ASSETS
Current Assets Restricted
  Checking/Savings
    SMB Money Market $ 45,100
    Certificate of Deposit $ 90,000
Total Current Assets Restricted $ 135,100

Fixed Assets
  Sound Acoustics System $ 13,090
  Signage $ 13,643
  Boiler Installation $ 70,380
Total Fixed Assets $ 97,113

TOTAL ASSETS $ 232,213

LIABILITIES & Equity
Current Liabilities
  Accounts Payable $ 5,356

Equity
  Retained Earnings $ 151,682
  Net Income $ 75,175
Total Equity $ 226,857

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY $ 232,213

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES - RESTORATION CAMPAIGN
For Year Ended September 30, 2019

REVENUE
  Interest & Dividends $ 126
  Gifts $ 100,474
  Pavers $ 375
TOTAL REVENUE $ 100,975

EXPENSES
  Architectural Fees $ 22,800
  Feasibility Study $ 3,000
TOTAL EXPENSES $ 25,800

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS $ 75,175

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

#### TOH ENDOWMENT BALANCE SHEET  
As of December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking/Savings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EJ Money Market</td>
<td>$ 21,467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>$ 21,467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EJ Stocks</td>
<td>$ 139,959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Value</td>
<td>$ 136,835</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$ 276,794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 298,261</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES & Equity                        |             |             |
| Equity                                      |             |             |
| Valuation Allowance                         | $ 136,836   |             |
| Permanent Restricted - General              | $ 132,697   |             |
| Children’s Programming                      | $ 22,493    |             |
| Retained Earnings                           | $ 12,948    |             |
| Net Gain/-Loss                              | $(6,713)     |             |
| Total Equity                                | $ 161,425   |             |

**TOTAL EQUITY - Fair Market Value**  

**$ 298,261**
Summer Theatre

The 2019 season of Tibbits Summer Theatre was truly a favorite with our audiences. We began with the romantic comedy *Be My Baby* by the prolific Ken Ludwig, a laughter filled tale of a mis-matched couple finding love with the adoption of a child. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* returned to our stage with a fully danced production that left audiences cheering for more. *West Side Story* proved to be a timely classic, receiving a standing ovation nightly. *See How They Run* lived up to its title being a fast paced farce that left the audience breathless with laughter.

Popcorn Theatre continued to introduce children to the magic of theatre. The schedule opened with Josh Casey, a wonderful juggler and all around entertainer. Next we presented a balletic version of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The very English *The Wind in the Willows* was next and we concluded with a spirited telling of *Pinocchio*. Returning for a second year, *The Classic Cartoon Cavalcade*, with plenty of short subjects from the golden years of Warner Brothers and Disney studios, brought lots of laughter from the children. Kids still got to meet the actors after each show, something that makes Popcorn theatre feel special—and, I believe, instills a love of Tibbits in them at a very early age.

In September, *Next to Normal*, the Pulitzer and Tony winning musical, was presented through a partnership with ProMedica and Pines Behavioral Health. This harrowing story of a family in the middle of a mental health crisis moved audiences in ways I have rarely seen. It was a treat to do “something different” and see the overwhelming positive response.

For a fourth 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.

Our company had a tremendous amount of new faces in it with the dance requirement for this season. It was balanced by a number of folks our audiences have come to love seeing here in the summer. 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. It is rewarding to hear of the friendships which develop through housing.

Charles Burr
Artistic Director,
Tibbits Summer Theatre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Records</th>
<th>Revenue Records:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in the past 16 years:</td>
<td>#1 – West Side Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1 – Footloose (2017) – 2359</td>
<td>#2 – Joseph/Dreamcoat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 – West Side Story – 2218</td>
<td>#4 – Chicago (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 – Fiddler on the Roof (2013) – 1924</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total season attendance for the main shows – 6133 (Highest since 2006!)
2019 Tibbits Summer Theatre & Sponsors

**Ken Ludwig’s Be My Baby**  
Frederick Family Dental

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
Vandervoort, Christ, & Fisher, P.C.

**West Side Story**  
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities

**See How They Run**  
Parrish Excavating, Inc.

**Tibbits Popcorn Theatre**

**Dr. Jon & Seibra Herbener**  
Battle Creek Community Foundation

**Josh Casey Comedy Juggler**  
Vested Risk Strategies

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**  
Great Lakes Chiropractic

**The Wind in the Willows**  
Dr. Matthew C. Christopher, DDS

**Classic Cartoon Cavalcade**  
Edward Jones: Tracy Kelley, B.J. West

**Pinocchio**  
Honor Credit Union

Artists  
Artwork for the shows provided by Stephanie Burdick, Matt Biolchini, Bev Tippman, and Koreena Hemker. Production photos by Laura Pentecost.

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.

Kids loved getting pictures taken with the actors after Popcorn Theatre shows.
Special Events Report

_Tibbits Opera House conducts many fundraising events throughout the year. Special events coupled with our annual membership drive are 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. 3, 2018_

The 39th Annual Auction grossed over $70,000 for the historic theatre’s annual operating budget.

As in previous auctions, dinners and special experiences highlighted the items up for bid and garnered some very generous donations. High bids for the evening came from a jet ride to Boyne, Michigan for lunch, complete orthodontic treatment from Dr. Baron Whateley and Coldwater Orthodontics, two separate dinners donated by Kathy and Rick Merrill, as well as several trips. This year’s Barton S. Tibbits Sponsorship was purchased by Kaiser Electric along with the Bairs and the Austens.

With the auction theme, “Tibbits at the Hop,” the opera house was decorated with 50s-era memorabilia. More than 400 guests attended with many arriving in leather jackets and poodle skirts in keeping with the theme.

Nearly 700 items were up for silent auction in the art gallery and another 62 were available for the entertaining live auction on stage led by Darren Spieth and Dan Satow, owners of Norton Auctioneers and Spieth & Satow Auctioneers. The evening’s festivities also included raffles, a wine pull and souvenir wine glasses. The winner of the large raffle donated her winnings back to the theatre capping off the evening.

Tibbits Executive Director Christine Delaney said at the end of the evening, “This was an amazing event all the way around. We had a great turnout and everyone was so generous. Our committee and staff were wonderful and truly went above and beyond.” She added, “I am grateful for all of the businesses and individuals who support this theatre in so many ways. Tibbits is truly blessed. We will continue to work hard to keep this theatre the pride of our community.”

The auction 2018 committee included Trisha Brokus, Alician Johanson, Tricia Mayer, Crystal Stoner, Samantha Welch, Jan Whitington, and Linda Woodhams under the direction of Tibbits Special Events Coordinator Amy Crabtree. In addition to these, nearly 100 volunteers helped make the event a success by gathering donations, decorating the theatre, selling raffle tickets or working the night of the event.
Tibbits Annual Golf Outing- June 21, 2019

After several rainy years, it was a beautiful day for the Tibbits Golf Outing. A total of 13 teams enjoyed 18 holes of golf. Many said they really liked the layout of the event, being able to take their lunch on the course, and not having to wait for prize tickets to be drawn. Sponsorships, team registrations and hole sponsorships contributed to making the 2019 Tibbits Annual Golf Outing a success. The total revenue generated was $14,562 with an approximate profit of $10,780.

The event kicked off mid-morning at the Coldwater Golf Course with a popular best-ball golf scramble format, which 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 as they played.

Frederick Family Dental was a first-time Title Sponsor of the event. The Foundation Golf Center sponsored the Large Raffle and first prize was a new set of Calloway golf irons with second prize being a 2020 Tibbits Entertainment Series Pass. Golfers also walked away with prizes for longest putt, closest to the pin, and straightest drive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Total Attend.</th>
<th>Youth Attend.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4-6</td>
<td>BCCT</td>
<td>&quot;Epsilon Precious&quot;</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Tibbits</td>
<td>Art Reach</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Tibbits</td>
<td>&quot;Arrogant&quot;</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2</td>
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# Attendance

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*Highlighted events were held outside Tibbits Opera House

**Summary**

- **107 Total Events**
- **29,208 Total Including Performers**
- **10,329 Total Children Served**
- *Includes performers*
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) produces two shows a year under the direction of qualified volunteers. 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.

Under the direction of Jayne Lillis, the fall show, *The Snow White Variety Show*, recreated the classic seven dwarfs, Wordy (Corrin Cook), Creepy (Jeffrey Harvey), Rowdy (Abby Robison), Howdy (Lily Roscoe), Nerdy (Paul Sharp), Weepy (Elliot Teeple), and Bob (Logan Kirk) who take turns telling part of Snow White’s (Lauren Teeple) famous story in his or her own unique voice. At any given moment, the story was anything — romance, comedy, home improvement show, suspense, Western, epic poetry, mystery, cooking show, stand-up routine, or blockbuster action movie, culminating in a mad-dash ending of fast-changing genres that set the record straight on Snow White’s happily-ever-after. Thirty-eight young people between fourth and eighth grades presented this successful play.

The spring musical, *Disney’s Aladdin JR*, starred a cast and crew of 48 young people and was directed by Julia Littley with Jayne Lillis as musical director. Aladdin (Logan Foster) and his three friends, Babkak (Joel Miller), Omar (Faith Miller), and Kassim (Abigail Robison), were down on their luck until Aladdin discovered a magic lamp and the Genie (Ryan Smith) who had the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to earn the respect of the princess, Jasmine (Lauren Teeple), Aladdin embarked on an adventure that tested his will and his moral character.
Thank you to Kiwanis for generously sponsoring the TYA program. Support also received from M. Rosenberg.

Tibbits Young Audiences received the 2019 Outstanding Community Program award from the Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce due to the dedication of its team of volunteers. The production team for both the spring and fall consisted of Jayne Lillis and Julia Littley, directors; Tirsha Odisher, producer; Laura Odom, costumes; Betsy Tappenden, Costume Assistant; Stacy Guertler, props; Tammy Nohr, make up; Leon Kriser, set designer and stage manager; Curtis Odom, videographer.

Middle and high school students can learn more about theatre through Tibbits Theatre and Beyond (T-TAB). For those interested in being more involved with theatre at Tibbits, T-TAB gives them great opportunities while building confidence and developing leadership skills. The group was very busy in 2018-2019 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.

What our TYA kids have to say...

“TYA has been a really good experience for me to become more social with everyone. I like being on the stage. TYA has something you can’t get from any other program.”
School Programming

Over 4,300 students and teachers were given the opportunity to see live professional shows during our school programming series, which featured ArtReach, Wild Swan’s Jack and the Beanstalk, Reg Pettibone’s Authentic Native American Program, Young Michigan Dances’ Campfire Stories, and Michigan Shakespeare Festival’s Romeo & Juliet, along with special performances of JazzReach, which were presented to choir and band students at their Legg Middle School and Coldwater High School at their schools. Several performances included sign language interpretation to meet the specific needs of students with hearing loss.

Students attended from Lakeland, Jefferson, St. Mary’s, Ryan Elementary, St. Charles Borromeo, Max Larsen, Pansophia Academy, Union City Elementary, Union City Middle School, Tekonsha High School, Nottawa Community Schools, East Leroy Elementary, Adrian High School, Calhoun County Christian, Anderson Elementary, Legg Middle School, Waldron School, Hanover Horton, Quincy High School, and Reading High School, along with several homeschool groups. Neighboring Indiana schools attending included 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.
Summer Theatre Workshop

Tibbits utilized the Summer Theatre talent to provide a special workshop for students to explore the world of theatre and performance. Summer company member, Chad Tallon, an experienced actor and drama teacher led 14 students on an artistic adventure, exploring the world of theatre and honing their own skills through theatre games, role playing and performance activities. The primary goal was to have fun but through the process young actors build confidence, improve public speaking skills and learn teamwork. Participants gained basic theatre understanding and worked individually on performances of their choice. A short performance at the end of the week allowed the students to showcase what they had learned.

Tallon, a professional actor and teacher from Illinois, has worked as an actor all over the United States including five summers in Coldwater for Tibbits Summer Theatre. His favorite shows at Tibbits include “The Producers,” “Chicago,” “Funny Money,” and “Greater Tuna.” Currently the drama teacher at Thomas Metcalf School in Bloomington, IL, Tallon has spent the last three years teaching drama to grades 1-8 and directing multiple productions during the school year. In addition to the workshop sessions students got to enjoy Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and the Popcorn Theatre production of The Wind in the Willows.
Entertainment Series

Tibbits Entertainment Series continues to expand its offerings and grow the audience for the theatre. Particularly notable is the number of attendees each of this year’s event brought from outside the county and the number of first time attendees. The response to the events, the hospitality offered by our volunteers, and of course the building itself are consistently glowing. Additionally, many return for other shows and events.

ArtRageous kicked off the Entertainment Series to a small but very appreciative audience. The professional troupe of artists, musicians, singers and dancers paid tribute to a variety of art forms, pop icons and musical genres, creating masterpieces on stage in moments. At the end, fabulous finished paintings filled the stage and Tibbits auctioned them off at later events.

Classic Stones Live, a Rolling Stones tribute band, took the stage with a near-capacity show in January in conjunction with the Coldwater Icefest. A second tribute band played to a large crowd in July when BritBeat, a Beatles tribute band, provided a multi-media concert.

The Comedy Fest in March brought another full house with featured headliner Bengt Washburn along with featured comic Mark Chalifoux and emcee Gerrit Elzinga. More laughter ensued in April when national headliner Paula Poundstone made an appearance. Poundstone’s visit included a meet and greet for the audience in the lobby after the show as well as a special meet and greet reception prior to the show with a small group of major Tibbits donors as well as representatives from Kalamazoo’s NPR radio station, WMUK.

The summer began and ended with smaller but equally successful concerts. Roomful of Blues rocked the house in June on the way to their appearance at the Chicago Blues Festival. In August, The Ragbirds brought their genre-bending sound back to the stage having first appeared here in 2014.

The series concluded in September with a partnership with Promedica and Pines Behavioral Health to present the rock musical Next to Normal, which utilized our professional tech/design crew and actors from Tibbits Summer Theatre.
ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital teamed with Tibbits Opera Foundation and Pines Behavioral Health (Community Mental Health Authority for Branch County) to present the professional theatre production of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony-award-winning musical *Next to Normal*. In short it was an amazing production which, exactly as hoped, started a conversation in the community on mental health.

Tibbits utilized its professional theatre resources to present the dramatic rock musical which offered a very real depiction of the effects of mental illness, both for the affected individual and her family. Both audience and professional reviews praised the performance. The show brought awareness to the mental health issue and deepened the dialogue of a very serious biological disease through art and entertainment.

Talkbacks followed each performance and included the performers, the director, and counselors from Pines. Approximately half of the audience each night stayed following the performance to participate. Pines provided an introduction to the conversation by sharing data on mental illness and bipolar disorder in our community. The audience fully engaged with excellent questions and comments relative to the performance. Of particular note were the touching testimonies from individuals personally affected by bipolar disorder. Following the performance they seemed to feel comfort in sharing their struggles knowing the audience, which had just witnessed the heart-wrenching performances, would be empathetic.

Randy DeGroot, ProMedica President stated, “I thought the *Next to Normal* performance was excellent. I left there wondering how the performers could possibly do as many performances as were scheduled in that it had to be emotionally draining. The production dealt with difficult subject matter in a way that was both entertaining and informative. I believe this production can open a door allowing people to talk about mental health issues which are often treated as taboo. I would recommend it to anyone.”

In advance of the performances, representatives and cast members gave presentations to Coldwater Township Sunrise Rotary, Pines Behavioral Health Board, Coldwater Noon Rotary, Coldwater DDA, Altrusa International of Branch County, Coldwater Exchange Club, and Coldwater Kiwanis Club. Some presentations were information only, while others included performance of several songs by the actors. The presentations promoted the show, but also gave information about mental health including the statistics for our community and the importance of breaking down the stigma associated with mental illness.

As Pines Executive Director Sue Germann stated in her introduction to the Talkbacks, “public town hall forums and newspaper articles would not have been effective, but the performance and the exceptional portrayals by the actors struck a chord. Watching lives unfold during this play created a much deeper understanding of each member of the family and their struggles.”

Without the support of ProMedica, Pines, and a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant, this collaborative effort would not have been possible.
Historical Display Grant

In June 2018, Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded a $14,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) to create *A Treasure Reborn: The History of Tibbits Opera House*. The goal of the project was to create a museum-quality display to give community members a better understanding and appreciation of Tibbits, which will in turn hopefully translate into more community support to help Tibbits fulfill its mission.

With additional guidance from Executive Director Christine Delaney, a research, design, and fabrication team consisting of Tammy Barnes, Stephanie Burdick, Matt Biolchini and Brandon Apmann worked from the time the grant was awarded until the unveiling of the project in January of 2019 at Tibbits’ Annual Meeting. At the unveiling, Burdick also presented on the project’s process as well as the history of the theatre. That presentation was later taken offsite and given to area service groups.

The exhibit is in the lower level of the art gallery as well as in the upstairs main lobby. While 136 years of history have been condensed into one exhibit, it’s just the beginning. Though key points of Tibbits history are displayed on the walls, the kiosk in the lobby will be an ever-evolving display of information. This display focuses on the chronological history of Tibbits’ management, architectural changes to the structure since 1882, and Tibbits’ place as a cultural and community center.

The kiosk also houses information about pieces of the Lewis Art Collection that are located throughout the theatre as well as information about performers whose names appear on the lobby mural by Alfred Parke.
Grant Programs

- 2019 Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Operational Support grant $19,500
- Michigan Humanities Council grant for Tibbits historical display (2-year grant) $14,000
- Michigan Humanities Council Touring Arts grants
  - Wild Swan Theatre, Jack & the Beanstalk $740
  - Reg Pettibone’s Authentic Native American Program $400
- Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo MCACA Region 8 Minigrant given to ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital for Next to Normal $3500
- Pines Behavioral Health grant for Next to Normal $8090
- PNC – Funding to introduce new audiences to Tibbits Popcorn Theatre $4000

Clockwise from top left: Jack and the Beanstalk, Reg Pettibone with audience members, Next to Normal cast and crew, Popcorn Theatre actors signing autographs after the show.
Arts Alive

Arts Alive hosted six exhibits, a downtown Art Walk, and a holiday fundraising event as well as the Kids’ Art Rocks! program.

**Gallery shows** included *Baby It’s Cold Outside, Beautiful Chaos, Down on the Farm, Technicolor Tribute, I Feel Pretty, and Creatures of Habit*. The quantity of the pieces continued from the previous year.

**The Art of Holiday Food, Drink, and Décor** offered food and drink demonstrations and tastings on the lower level by BACC’s Culinary class and JT’s. Décor throughout gave ideas and inspiration. A make-and-take session featured local florist Deb Gigowski teaching attendees how to make a fresh pine swag with a beautiful bow. It was a profitable event but overwhelming for the small committee of Deb Thenen, Stephanie Burdick, Darci Gaff, and Monique Broughman. Funds from the event were used to add to the hanging gallery system and for the downtown ArtWalk.
The Kids Art Rocks reception recognized 17 student artists for the year-long business lease program, along with another 55 students who submitted work for the open submission contest. KAR committee members Stan and Judy Bushouse, Deb Thenen, Ruth Scheidler and Stephanie Burdick judged, publicized, framed and hung the winners’ artwork. Prize money and art supplies were used as new incentives to encourage artists and their families to attend the reception.

ArtWalk was held in summer and moved to Monroe Street, the 4 Corners Park, and the surrounding block, but July’s weather proved to be as inclement as the spring. Actual temperatures soared above 100 degrees, and the state warned people to stay inside to avoid heatstroke. Artists lined Monroe Street, vintage vendors lined the sidewalk leading to the Four Corners Park where a professional drum circle and free kids activities were set up. Several food trucks and a beer tent were set up along US-12. A chalk artist created cool chalk drawings, and the large sidewalk provided the perfect backdrop for kids to join in and create their own chalk art. The hot weather kept many people away; then a storm rolled through around 7pm, forcing artists and vendors to scatter and tear down their booths early. Vendors and attendees enjoyed the event, but based on feedback, the committee has plans for 2020 to only use Monroe Street for the event.
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 members, Tibbits would not be the home for school productions, community theatre, community band, area dance studios, Arts Alive, and other local organizations.

375 corporate and individual members in 2018-2019 donated $104,383.

~ Paula Poundstone, comedian

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.

2018-2019    James & Renee White, Kaiser Electric, Dave & Caroline Austin, Paul & Kathy Bair
2017-2018    Norma Geishert, Betty Shank, Remus & Donna Rigg, Judy Jenkins (2 years)
2015-2016    Norma Geishert, Betty Shank, Remus & Donna Rigg (2 years)
2014         Ralph & Carol Schafer
2012 - 2013    Norma Geishert (2 years)
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)
**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual contributors are recognized according to the following categories:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Curtain Raiser</strong> $1000 +</td>
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<td><strong>Angel</strong> $650 to $999</td>
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<td><strong>Star</strong> $450 to $649</td>
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<td><strong>Friend</strong> $100 to $249</td>
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<td><strong>Donor</strong> $40 to $99</td>
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- Paul & Kathy Bair
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- Douglas & Sharon Bloom
- Ray & Fran Bregger
- Robert W. Browne
- Stan & Judy Bushouse
- Gonzie Cardenas
- David & Carol Coyle
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- David & Del Rubley
- Marion & Janet Sanderson
- Don & Donnie VanBrackel
- Vena K Wade

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- Ken & Christine Delaney
- Keith & Linda Gardner
- Evelyn & Corbin Grimes
- Don & Leigh Ann Hicks
- Joseph & Karen Hughes

**Star**
- Bill & Linda Becker
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- Barbara & Robert Brott
- Guy & Joyce Cobb
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- Linda Luce
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- Mark & Janet Ott
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- Jim & Joanne Smith
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- Paul & Connie Winbigler

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<td>Nedra Kingsbury</td>
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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.

We recognize our corporate contributors according to the following categories:

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<td>$250 to $499</td>
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Corporate Partner

Asama Coldwater Manufacturing, Inc.
Dally Tire Company
Nichols Accounting & Tax Services
Taylor, Plant & Watkins PC

Corporate Director

Century Bank & Trust
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities
Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Corporate Angel

McDonald's: The Maynard Organization
The Stanton Foundation

Corporate Star

All Things Serenity Yoga & Event Center
Allstate Insurance
Altrusa International of Branch County
Bosco & Lynda Chan
Branch Insurance Agency, Inc.
Coldwater Orthodontics/Dr. Whately
Kiwanis Club of Coldwater
Marshall Community Credit Union
Studio 17 Salon & Spa

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JR Colbeck, Attorney
Kiess Jewelry
Knights of Columbus
Lillis & Jansen, P.C.
Marble Lake Resort & Marina
Maroa Farms/Mastronardi Produce
Star of the West Milling
Volunteers donated 9,611 hours to Tibbits Opera House during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. There were 277 active volunteers. The monetary value of these donated hours equals $244,407. 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.

The volunteer organization experienced another transition this year with Tirsha Odisher, Director of Audience Services, and her box office staff taking over training and scheduling all front of house volunteers. Communication is key so the team utilized new methods of communication including email, a Facebook group, and a texting service. The Volunteer of the Month program was reinstituted, a volunteer recognition program was implemented with coupons for The Patio, and the Usher Room received a transformation to a Volunteer Room complete with treats for the volunteers!

Volunteers are the heart of Tibbits. The support and hours of service as well as the outstanding customer service they provide to the theatre is priceless. As a small token of our thanks, we hold an Annual Volunteer Reception every spring to recognize outstanding efforts throughout the year. This year, our reception was held on stage with special music by Randall Hazeltaker. Many volunteers earned pins, indicating they had reached certain hour milestones.

Longtime volunteer Diane Riegel was selected as Tibbits Volunteer of the Year. Riegel has over 2,800 hours in her volunteer career. She has served as an usher, helps with the annual auction and is a past Booster Board President. She has helped on many committees and served as chair for Dancing with the Celebrities, the Art Wall project, Doll-O-Rama and the Pirate Adventure.

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.

Tibbits would like to thank our devoted volunteers for their time, service, and ever-appreciated support. New volunteers are always welcome!
Volunteers

Amy Abrey
Suha Algaradi
Gabriela Armstrong
Kim Ashenfelter
Matt Ashenfelter
Sharon Atkinson
Hal Baird
Keith Baker
Bridget Barle
James Barnes
Tammy Barnes
Michael Beckwith
Jada Bell
Sasha Bell
Amber Berry
Seth Berry
Doug Bloom
John Bolton
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Stephanie Burdick
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Stanley Bushouse
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Katina Dunks
Sandy Duvendack
Shirley Easterday
Chelsea Edwards
Tom Eldridge
Amber Elkins
Jason Elkins
Diane Epps
Amy Fenner
Cady Fillmore
Suzanne Fillmore
Courtney Foley
Glen Foley
Jackie Foley
Sarah Forrister
Dylan Foster
Joan Foster
Logan Foster
James Fraley
Sandy From
Luba Fry
Matt Fullington
Addison Gaff
Darci Gaff
Lexi Galliers
Wava Gano
Keith Gardner
Linda Kay Gardner
Stacy Gilbert
Diane Godfrey
Sarah Goodwin
Sue Greenamyer
Amy Greenhoe
Sue Greenhoe
Shana Grife
Stacy Guertler
Kerry Hamrick
Barbara Hantz
Richard Hantz
Karen Hargreave
Diane Harmon
Carley Hart
Alison Harvey
Barbara Harvey
Beth Harvey
Jeffrey Harvey
Brian Hodson
Marianne Hodson
Bonita Hoffner
Dorla Horkey
Connie Howard
Jean Howatt
Anita Hoyt
Bianca Hubbard
Penny Ireland
Patricia Jackson
Gina Jaros
Alicia Johansen
Sylvia Johns
Jan Johnson
Janet Johnson
Conner Kaniewski
Lydia Kaniewski
Andy Karr
Pat Karr
Steve Kasperski
Vicki Kasperski
Pam Kasperski
Ralph Kasperski
Brandi Killian
Julia Kirk
Lisa Kirk
Linda Knirk
Sheryld Kokinis
Sydney Kokinis
Leon Kriser
Becky Kubic
Jay LaFountain
Samantha LaFountain
Debbie Landis
Gail Langridge
Daniel LaVergne
Larissa LaVergne
Lisa Lawrence
Gloria Lawson-Sharp
Missy Lee
Jayne Lillis
Jack Lintner
Linda Lintner
Julia Littley
Steven Little
Jo Ann Lloyd
Polly Locke
Peggie Long
Karen Lowder
Laura Lutterbeck
Betty Malovey
Marvin Malovey
Vicki Manning

Front-of-house training featured rotating stops at the bar, gift shop, house, terrace and other areas with the final stop for volunteers to enjoy some ice cream!
Volunteers

These volunteers were recognized for 100, 200, 300, 400 and 500 hours of service at the volunteer reception this spring.

Kristin Marteen
Brock Martin
Dawson McClughen
Alisha McGlothan
Crysta McGlothan
Dreyden McGlothan
Emily McIndoe
Jillian McKinley
Richard Merrill
Chris Miller
Kathy Miller
Lorrie Miller
Bill Milnes
Kathy Miner
Kendall Minick
Dusty Modert
Linzy Monks
Betsy Susan Morgan
April Morrell
Linda Moses
Candace Newkirk
Wallace A. Newkirk
Tammy Nohr
Kenneth Norton
Cherith Nottingham
Addie Noyes
Brad Noyes
Jill Noyes
Sara Obenour
Tirsha Odisher
William Odisher
Curtis Odom
Laura Odom
Beverly Ohm
Lauren Palmer
Dick Pask
Anna Payne
Jessica Payne
Laura Pentecost
Jessie Pickell
Steve Pickell
Jeffrey Powell
Sharon Powell
Diane Pridgeon
Mike Pridgeon
Raeanne Renner
Dennis Riegel
Diane Riegel
Kay Riegel
Rox Ann Ringer
Brad Rockey
Marvin Rosenberg
Charlene Rucker
Chad Ruhl
Deanna Rupp
Rege Rupp
Gail Russell
Christina Rutz
Gabriela Rutz
Rachel Rutz
Steve Rutz
Rachel Sarles
Ruth Scheidler
Charlene Searing
Mackenzie Searing
Michael Searing
Ray Sebastian
Gloria Sharp
Bev Siefken
Dee Smith
Dorothy Smith
Ethan Smith
Julie Smith
Keli Smith
Lauren Smith
Madeline Smith
Megan Smith
Rob Smith
Ron Smith
Shirley Snyder
Nancy Sprow
Sandra Stiles
Theresa Stoddard
Crystal Stoner
Norbert Strobel
Lou Stuckey
Mike Sutton
Jaden Swartz
Kaylee Swift
Michelle Swift
Betsy Tappenden
Bree Tappenden
Eric Tappenden
Marisue Taylor
Gina Teeple
Deb Thenen
Carol Tintervia
Mary Turner
Dana VanEvery
Mallory VanWagner
Larisa Vorce
Vena Wade
Renita Wallen
Debbie Ware
Angie Washburn
Erin Washburn
Ken Washburn
Joan Waterbury
Wayne Weaver
James White
Tyler Whitehead
Kitty Wilcox
Jessica Witmer
Pat Woirol
Paul Woirol
Connie Wood
Gina Wright
Monica Wyss
Dorothy Young
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:

- Beginnings Care for Life
- Burnside Senior Center
- Calhoun Christian Schools
- Elks Lodge #1023 Caring For Kids
- Englewood
- Family Promise
- JAM Winter Gala Benefit Auction
- Jonesville Athletic Booster Assoc.
- Kimball Camp YMCA
- Knights of Columbus
- Masonville Place
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network
- Naomi Davis Shelterhouse
- Prairie Baptist School
- ProMedica Relay for Life
- Project Hope
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School
- Stick It for a Cure– Coldwater Gymnastics
- Sunrise Rotary

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 “Epsilon Precious (The Play about the Cat),” the Christmas show “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” “In Like Flint,” an original comedy as part of the Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting Excellence, and the musical “Mary Poppins” which brought together people from outside the community expanding our reach into Calhoun County.

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.

Jennifer Colbeck, Board Member
Branch County Community Theatre
Memorials

Jean Biringer
(October 22, 1925 – August 7, 2019)

The Biringer Family played an important role in Tibbits’ history starting back in the days when the community rallied to save the theatre, renovate it, and prepare it to serve as a center for the arts for Coldwater and Branch County. We are eternally grateful to all who played a role in those critical days. Jean Biringer’s support of our historic theatre continued until the end. Jean was a lovely person. She valued this theatre and her thoughtfulness in remembering Tibbits will not be forgotten.

J. Richard Colbeck
(September 25, 1939 – September 30, 2019)

JR Colbeck shared with us boundless love and commitment to theatre and the arts. His service to the theatre in our community is far reaching. With Branch County Community Theatre among so many gifts, he was instrumental in carrying on the tradition of the Pickering Award recognizing original playwriting.

His role with Tibbits Opera House extended from member and donor, to volunteer and leader. He served on the Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council Board of Directors first as BCCT representative from 1996 to 2000 and 2005 to 2008. He returned in 2008 until the present, serving as president from 2015 to 2017.

J.R took to the boards for no less than 46 professional shows with Tibbits Summer Theatre from Anything Goes in 1982 through 2017’s blockbuster Footloose. His cooking and pizza parties were stuff of legends and each season he hosted a party for the Tibbits Summer Company, as he did for so many other groups. When the Glenn Miller Orchestra performed at Tibbits, he fed them so well band members couldn’t wait to come back. His pizza party for 30 people offered at the Tibbits Annual Auction always received top bids.

His devotion to Tibbits, Branch County Community Theatre, and the advancement of the arts in Branch County will be missed.

Memorial Gifts Received

Shirley Bailey  J. Richard Colbeck  Alden Powell
Jean Biringer  Max Crandall  Mary McIndoe
Soozie Bradshaw  Dorothy Kendrick  Anna Sosinski
Lorrainne Clyne  Wilma Lange  Jean Swart

Nominations of Michigan properties are made by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, as well as the City of Coldwater were notified May 1 of the listing. Coldwater City Manager, Keith Baker said, “Coldwater benefits from the unique character provided by its historic buildings. We’re very happy Tibbits Opera House has been listed. It’s great for the theatre and it’s another boost for our community.”

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation’s official list of cultural resources significant in our collective history and worthy of preservation. According to SHPO, listing on the National Register allows consideration in the planning for federal-assisted projects; provides eligibility for federal tax benefits; qualifies properties for federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available; serves as a catalyst for economic development; and promotes heritage tourism.”

The historic designation sign arrived in the fall, and a reception following the Smith Memorial Concert included a dedication. The event also became a celebration of the 137th birthday of the Opera House.

We launched a social media fundraising campaign for a large historic marker outside the building and by September, we raised the estimated $4,000 for the project.

**Historic Sign Support**

Thank you to the following who generously supported this project!

Anonymous

Barb Contat

Bev Tippmann

Diane Wilshere

Michael & Diane Pridgeon

Norma Geishert

Paula DeJongh

Ray & Bev Sebastian

Renita Wallen

Ruby & Jon Harpst

Stan & Judy Bushouse

Steve Crandall

Tom Roberts
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!