



Explore the artist within

November 2023

MISSION

To foster, through artistic expression, the creative potential that exists in everyone to enrich the lives of our neighborhoods, our community, and the world at large.

VISION

An intentional community where the power and joy of arts education and experiences are accessible to all.

PURPOSE

To provide quality professional programming and supervision in both Arts Education and Community Schools for students of all ages to set them up for a successful lifelong journey in the arts.

A tradition of giving

Americans have a rich history of charitable giving by individuals, corporations and foundations to address important social needs – from Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, who believed that all individuals should contribute to organizations and causes to advance the common good, to 20th-century philanthropists Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford. That tradition continues today with Bill Gates, Mackenzie Scott, Warren Buffett and everyday citizens.

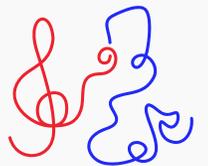
In describing the role of philanthropy, the Charities Aid Society notes that it has the power to influence lasting social change. It continues: When an organization receives support, a 'ripple effect' takes place. Many lives are touched, potentially for generations. Philanthropy can be looked at as one of the cornerstones of a stable society. When people come together to help others, whether donating money or time, we're reminded what it means to be human. And from there, communities grow stronger.

Beyond the benefits to society, philanthropy enriches the lives of those who give, broadening our perspectives and developing a stronger sense of empathy. Giving contributes to greater overall happiness, lower stress levels and a heightened sense of connection to others.

"I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the Lilly Family School of Fundraising at Indiana University, thanks to assistance from the Richland County Foundation," Business Manager Pam Madore said. "I focus primarily on accessing grant funds and managing the annual Richland Gives campaign, while developing relationships with sponsors and other donors is really a team activity."

"About six years ago, we made participation in Richland Gives a priority," she continued. "It's an opportunity to emphasize the importance of supporting the many great not-for-profit organizations throughout the community and to contribute to building the true spirit of giving."

Continued on pg. 2



BOARD MEMBERS

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LEADERSHIP

Dr. Michael Benson,
Executive Director
Sheri Hughes,
Assistant Director
Pam Madore,
Business Manager
Sarah Horrigan-
Ramos,
Dance Department
Chair

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday
9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday
12 noon to 8 p.m.
Thursday
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Subject to change

Tradition – continued

Richland Gives is a local online giving event designed to encourage everyone to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving platform/website. The Richland Foundation hosts Richland Gives to build capacity, grow philanthropy and strengthen the community.

The 2023 Richland Gives campaign is slated for November 13–28. The theme for RAA is “Giving the Gift of the Arts,” with a campaign goal of \$15,000 and a focus on the general fund, the Neil Doerman Endowed Scholarship Fund, and donor directed contributions to programs of their choice. Richland Gives’ early giving kicks off on November 13 and the campaign runs through November 27; Richland Gives is Tuesday, November 28. On November 28, the Golden Ticket Hour is from 12 to 1 p.m.

When you are good to others, you are best to yourself.

– Benjamin Franklin

“Last year, we raised more than \$9,000 during the Richland Gives campaign.” Madore said. “We placed fourth for the most dollars raised and fifth for the most unique donors. This year we hope to win a \$500 bonus grant for the most unique donors contributing during the Golden Ticket Hour. Giving during the Golden Ticket Hour is a great way for supporters to make their gifts even more impactful.”

“Richland Gives is a marvelous opportunity to impact the community in a meaningful way,” Executive Director Dr. Michael Benson said. “Beyond the campaign and funding from the state, we are blessed to receive grants, scholarships and individual contributions throughout the year.”

“We’re also grateful to those who donate their talents and time as volunteers,” he continued. “Throughout my arts career, I’ve never worked in an environment where contributions were not much needed and appreciated.”

According to Dr. Benson, “thanks to strong community support RAA has helped ensure that everyone in the community – regardless of their income – can participate in arts education.

“All of our fundraising activities are about making the arts accessible to everyone,” Madore said. “The strong support we receive not only helps cover operating costs, but it also allows us to take arts programming into our local community.”

“We’re excited to launch the 2023 Richland Gives campaign and thank supporters in advance for their impactful gifts to the Richland Academy and other great local nonprofits.”



The impact of philanthropy

Donations, sponsorships and grants are fuel to Richland Academy of the Arts' engine – they are what drives RAA offerings and activities, and RAA's service to members of the Mansfield and surrounding communities. Last year alone, generous contributions from valued partners were hugely impactful in so many ways:

Scholarships and Tuition Assistance – Donations helped support 161 awards totaling over \$27,000 to students studying the arts;

Dance Another Day Project, Phase 1 – Donations and grants totaling more than \$36,000 supported the installation of new sprung dance floors in Studios 1 and 2, providing the best environment for instruction and training. RAA's dance studios are used seven days a week, 12 months of the year for classes, rehearsals, performances and special community events. Over the past five years, more than 4,200 students have participated in RAA's dance programs, special events and performances. In addition to grant funding, community donations to the project totaled more than \$6,000;

Theatre and Music Department – Thanks to strong sponsor support, more than 300 people attended four free productions. Music Department sponsorships supported eight free student music recitals enjoyed by more than 750 attendees.

Nutcracker Ballet – Funding of this program supported two ticketed performances attended by more than 1,250 people and a free student performance attended by nearly 550 Shelby City Schools students and homeschool families.

60+ Educational Programing – Sponsored by the state Area Agency on Aging, these programs offer free participation in dance, music, visual arts and theatre programs to more than 150 Richland County seniors, as well as enrichment trips to the Cleveland Art Museum, Toledo Art Museum, Ohio Light Opera and the Renaissance Theatre.

Richland Gives Donations – Generous community members contributed more than \$9,000 in support of Richland Academy of the Arts' day-to-day operations and quality programming. Thanks to donors from throughout the community, RAA served more than 1,850 students who participated in nearly 3,100 classes. Nearly 5,900 individuals attended 35 free and ticketed RAA productions, performances and gallery exhibits.



Special thanks to OAC and community partners

Richland Academy of the Arts is grateful to the Ohio Arts Council and its 2022-2023 community partners that continue to support RAA's mission and quality arts education and programming. RAA's 2022-2023 sponsors and supporters include:

Area Agency on Aging
Commercial Cleaning Services
DB Engraving
Doug and Melissa Olson
Hamilton Insurance Group, Inc.
Harvey and Carol McGowan
Huntington Bank
I Heart Radio
Levi Muriuki
Michael Thomas
MG Energy
Mechanics Bank
Michael and Denise Benson
Mid State Multi Media
Noble Piano Services
Ohio Arts Council

Park National Bank
Richland County Foundation
Richland Public Health
Richland Source
Robert and Esther Black Family Foundation Fund through RCF and PNC
Shirt Shack
Solsys
The Fran and Warren Rupp Advised Fund of the RCF
The Shelby Foundation
The Thomas Family Fund of the RCF
The Village Network
Thompson Elite Lawn Care
Vinyl Marketing
Whitcomb and Hess, CPA's and Financial Advisors
WOB Accountants and Advisors

