

A group of actors in school uniforms are on a stage. A woman in a dark blue school uniform with red piping and a black belt is leaning over, looking at a young girl in a similar uniform who is looking up at her. Other students in uniforms are standing in the background. The background is a dark blue stage set with a pattern of glowing dots in purple and blue, resembling a constellation.

CONSTELLATION
STAGE + SCREEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

*Connecting Audiences Through
World-Class Theater and Film*

ABOUT CONSTELLATION

Our Mission

Constellation Stage & Screen serves the Bloomington community and beyond through the production of professional theater and film, educational programs, and venue management, and impacts the national performing arts industry through new work development.

Our Values

At Constellation Stage & Screen, our shared values serve as guideposts as we work daily in service of our audience, our craft, our community, and our organization. The array of values we share can be characterized by three core beliefs. First, we believe in the power of theater and film to simultaneously entertain and engage audiences. Second, we believe that the arts are vital to the quality of life for every individual and essential to the overall health of our community. Third, we believe these values should be lived internally by providing a welcoming and supportive workplace that nurtures our staff, artists, and board.



SPOTLIGHT: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

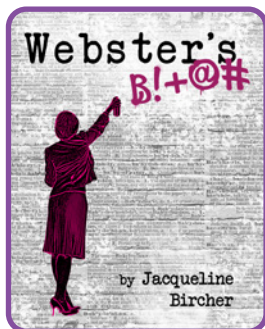
Constellation Stage & Screen is committed to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion in its artistic productions and management. Our goal is to become fully inclusive, multi-cultural, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist. Our organization is committed to establishing consistent, meaningful, long-term conversations and relationships with historically marginalized artists and groups in our community. Constellation will build a more diverse network of creatives and actors, present underrepresented stories on our stage, and ensure representation of historically marginalized people among our artists, staff, and board.

Constellation has a standing DEI committee that meets monthly and reports at all board meetings. The committee regularly meets with and advises Constellation leadership on concerns and strategies to fulfill the organization's commitment to DEI goals. Committee highlights of 2023-24 include:

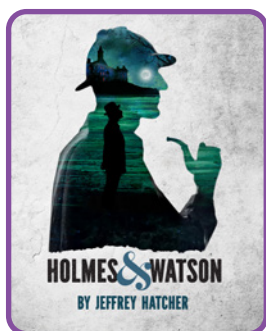
- ✦ Working with the City of Bloomington to screen its Black History Month keynote film, *The Bright Path*
- ✦ Planning and hosting a DEI Performance Development and Networking event that brought together local and regional artists to discuss their needs in the theater community as well as possible future performance opportunities
- ✦ Partnering with the City of Bloomington for a performance at the City's Juneteenth celebration
- ✦ Meeting throughout the year with area artists and organizations to strengthen collaborations

2023 - 2024 SEASON

The 2023-24 Season included 5 Mainstage shows and 2 Constellation for Kids productions ranging from mysteries to meatballs, slapstick to social commentary, and finding your place to finding yourself.



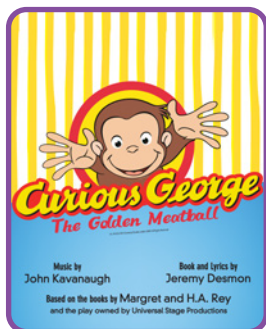
Jan 25-
Feb 11, 2024



Sept 7-24,
2023



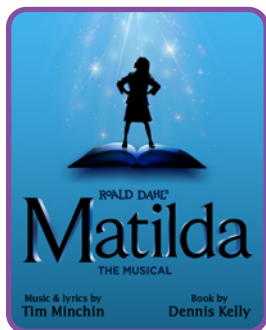
Mar 21 -
Apr 7, 2024



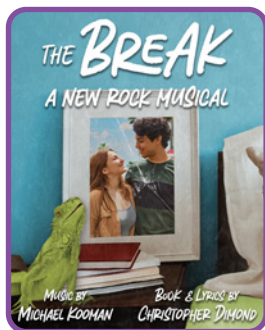
Oct 20-
Nov 5, 2023



Apr 26 -
May 12, 2024



Dec 14-31,
2023



June 6-23,
2024

SPOTLIGHT: NEW WORKS



At Constellation, we are deeply committed to new work. In fact, at least 50% of the shows in each theatrical season are Constellation Originals – new, unpublished plays. This bold commitment, part of the McCarty New Works Initiative, ensures that the development and production of original pieces of theater will remain an integral part of our artistic mission. The creation of new works affords Constellation a platform to expose our local audiences to relevant, original stories. Also, by engaging new and diverse artistic voices, new works serve to further Constellation’s mission of diversity and inclusion and foster greater empathy in an increasingly fractured society.

In 2023-2024 Constellation made significant impact both locally and nationally with its new works initiatives. *Webster’s Bitch* opened in January 2024 and played to a sold-out run before moving on to be produced by a company in Washington, DC. Constellation spent a full year commissioning and developing a new “choose-your-own-adventure” children’s show entitled, *Alex Gold: Stuck on Repeat* that premiered in April 2024. And in June we opened a world premiere musical called *The Break* by Emmy-nominated writers, Kooman & Dimond.

Constellation developed *Glitches in Reality*, starring reigning World Champion of Magic, Simon Coronel, which sold out in November, toured multiple states in the spring/summer, and is currently planning additional tour dates and a NYC production. Constellation also developed a children’s magic show that went on to be performed in Melbourne, Australia and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. AND Constellation’s original production of *The Life & Slimes of Marc Summers* had a critically-acclaimed four month off-Broadway run.

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY



16,800 Patrons attended theatrical performances



55 local theatrical artists were hired for payments totaling **\$104,575**



2209 students from 20 area schools attended student matinees at deeply discounted ticket prices.



635 tickets were purchased at **\$5 or less** through Constellation's Pay What You Will initiative



317 free Community Access Tickets were used by theatergoers from Monroe County and five other nearby counties



EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Camps, Classes and Workshops

Constellation educational programming included offerings for all ages, Pre-K to adults, in the areas of acting, singing, improv/comedy, movement, playwriting, costuming, and film direction and production for a total of 55 offerings and 698 students served, including 43 students who participated through scholarships. Enrollment for all classes and camps was at 90% or more, with 95% of participants reporting that they planned to return. The programs employed 18 different teaching artists for wages totaling over \$63,000.

Extended Day

Constellation served students in MCCSC Title I schools by providing theater enrichment programming before and after school. Two teaching artists served students at six Monroe County elementary schools, including Summit, Clear Creek, Highland Park, Arlington, Grandview, and Templeton.

Fairview Artful Learning Residency

The 2023–2024 school year saw Constellation doubling its participation and outreach in Fairview Elementary's Artful Learning Program by adding a 3rd/4th grade drama class twice a week to join the already-existing 5th/6th grade class.



SPOTLIGHT: PROJECT CONSTELLATION

Constellation invited high school students throughout Indiana to submit original short screenplays to this annual competition. The winning submission, *To Tell You the Truth*, came from a student at Signature School in Evansville. With strong community and individual financial support, Constellation brought together film professionals and local actors to film the movie on location over a two-day shoot that included mentorship of Signature students. The film is currently in post-production.



FILM SCREENING SERIES

Constellation's 2023-2024 Film Screening Series consisted of cult classics, Hollywood hits, and one-of-a-kind interactive screening experiences. In February, Constellation presented the premiere of a brand new *Willy Wonka Taste-Along* Screening Experience that is now set for a national tour.

Season film screenings included:

- ✦ *Friday the 13th: Part IV*
- ✦ *Shock Treatment*
- ✦ *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*
- ✦ *The Room*
- ✦ *Willy Wonka Taste-Along*
- ✦ *2001: A Space Odyssey*



FILM CLUB

Constellation launched Film Club in October of 2023 as a way to bring the local film community together, creating opportunities for fun, learning, and development through workshops, meetups, productions, and screenings. Monthly meetings hosted guest speakers including director David Anspaugh, writer Angelo Pizzo, and stunt coordinator Patrick Kelly.

In June, the club worked on its first film production, competing against 18 other teams in the Indianapolis 48-Hour Film Project. Twelve club members created an original short film in just two days and were recognized with an award at the conclusion of the competition.



VISUAL ARTS

Constellation's flagship building, the Waldron Arts Center, is home to three visual art galleries: The Rosemary P Miller Gallery, the Spotlight Gallery, and the Educational Gallery. Working with financial support from the City of Bloomington, Constellation presented 19 unique exhibits over the course of the year, featuring 67 different artists. The community was invited to participate in this programming through regular gallery hours, the monthly First Friday Gallery Walk, and special artist presentations throughout the year.



HOSTING COMMUNITY ARTISTS

An integral component of Constellation's management of the Waldron Arts Center and the Constellation Playhouse is its commitment to providing performance space to fellow community artists and arts organizations. During the 2023–2024 fiscal year, Constellation hosted 29 public arts events that were presented by other artists. These ranged from one-night solo music recitals and original film screenings to multi-week, full-scale theatrical productions and international music festivals.

Area arts organizations that rely on Constellation venue space include Jewish Theater of Bloomington, Windfall Dancers, Lotus Festival, Stages Bloomington, Monroe County Civic Theater and Echo Dance Company. This year, two new local theater companies also found a performance home at our facilities: Off Night Productions and Eclipse Productions.

Open Stages Program

Constellation supported new and emerging local artists through its Open Stages program, which provided rent subsidy grants to qualifying applicants. The program, which provided assistance to five artists/organizations in 2023–2024, is slated for significant expansion in the coming year thanks to a partnership with the City of Bloomington.

Off Night
Productions
presents
Proof, 2023



SPOTLIGHT: COOK GROUP

Constellation's sustained success requires setting a new standard for arts philanthropy in the region. To build the full-scale, comprehensive, professional performing arts organization that Bloomington deserves, Cook Group pledged \$300,000/year in unrestricted operating support starting in FY22. Additionally, Cook pledged an additional \$550,000 over a five-year period to be used as a 1:1 match to help secure annual fund gifts as a challenge to our community to develop a broad and sustainable base of renewable support for Constellation.

This "Big Bang Campaign" commenced in 2022 with the goal of securing \$250,000/year in new, sustained operating support by 2027. Constellation is on track to hit this target, but will require contributed revenue growth of approximately \$50K - \$75K each subsequent year between now and the end of FY27.

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

✦ **Caroline Dowd-Higgins**
Co-President

✦ **Von Welch**
Co-President

✦ **Anna Jensen**
Treasurer

✦ **David Roberts**
Secretary

✦ **Sally Gaskill**

✦ **Philippa Guthrie**

✦ **Brian Hathaway**

✦ **Ray Hedin**

✦ **Traci Jovanovic**

✦ **Erin Parks**

✦ **Angelo Pizzo**

✦ **Vi Simpson**

✦ **Kim Van Lue**

PRODUCER SOCIETY

Support from major donors is key to the success of Constellation's sustainability as it accounts for over two-thirds of contributed revenue from individuals. Constellation defines a major donor as a any household that contributes \$1,000 or more annually. This year, 122 such households joined Constellation's Producer Society. To thank and steward members, Constellation invites Producers to special pre-show receptions featuring an open bar and complimentary food as well as "Page-to-Stage Experiences" including artist talks.

2023-2024 GRANT SUPPORT

Constellation received grant support totaling \$86,083 from the

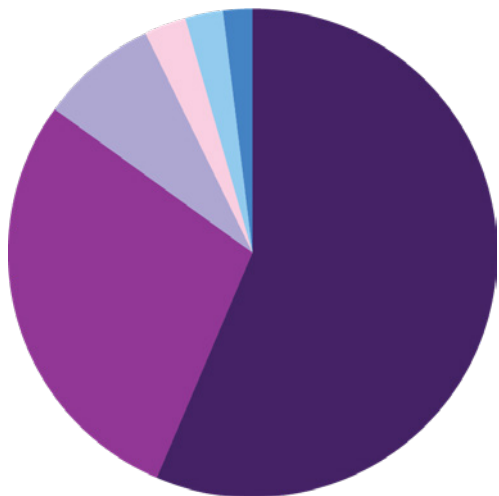
- ✦ **Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County**
General Operations
- ✦ **South Central Indiana REMC**
Constellation for Schools program
- ✦ **Indiana Arts Commission Arts Organization Support**
General Operations
- ✦ **Indiana Arts Commission Fellowship for Creative Teaching**
Student Enrichment Workshop
- ✦ **Psi Iota Xi**
Constellation for Schools program
- ✦ **City of Bloomington**
Visual Arts program
- ✦ **Smithville Foundation**
Constellation Education programs
- ✦ **National Alliance for Musical Theater**
Community Access Tickets initiative
- ✦ **Duke Energy Foundation**
Constellation for Schools program



FY24 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

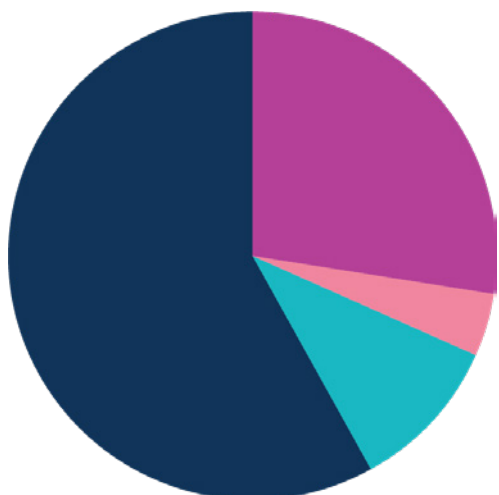
FY24 Revenue

- Corporate & Individual Support 56.5%
- Box Office 28.6%
- Education Programs 7.7%
- Concession & Ad Sales 2.9%
- Venue Rental 2.5%
- Other 1.8%



FY24 Expenses

- Program 58.0%
- Administration 27.5%
- Facilities 10.1%
- Development 4.4%





CONSTELLATION

STAGE ✦ SCREEN

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