

ANNAPOLIS SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, INC.

Organizational Background

Annapolis Shakespeare Company is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity that Sally Boyett started in 2009 to provide Shakespeare and theatre education in schools. In 2013, Annapolis Shakespeare Company (ASC) founded a professional theatre company to present performances and expanded educational outreach. We seek a bond bill for the new theatre development.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The ASC has agreements with the Anne Arundel County Schools' Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) programs, located at Wiley H. Bates Middle School and Brooklyn Park Middle School, Annapolis High School, and Broadneck High School. There are four (4) resident teaching artists in each of the Middle Schools or a total of sixteen (16) weekly classes. The ASC conducts and works on High School training and performances. Throughout the year, the ASC brings students to professional theatre performances and conducts pre- and post-performance workshops where students discuss the plays with professional actors and directors.

In February 2017, the ASC is expanding its youth acting company. In March 2017, the ASC, will host a high school Shakespeare Festival at the new ASC Annapolis theatre location and plans to build the program each year to serve more Maryland schools. This program was formerly conducted by the Folger Shakespeare Theater and will include participation by the Queen Elizabeth School from England.

The ASC serves over 2,500 students annually in student matinees of Shakespeare and other classic plays and in weekly classes and workshops.

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ACTIVITIES

In 2013, the ASC established a small 75-seat Annapolis theatre with a company of professional actors in 2,300 square feet of converted basement office space. In addition to performances at the small theatre space, the ASC presents outdoor Shakespeare performances at the Charles Carroll House and Reynolds Tavern in Annapolis. The first season included four plays. Currently, the ASC presents eleven (11) full productions.

In 2016, the ASC arranged to move to a new 8,100 square feet, 99-seat blackbox theatre now being constructed at 1804 West Street in Annapolis, Maryland. This space is designed to include a spacious lobby and bar, multiple classrooms, backstage storage space, performance rooms, rehearsal locations, and office space which did not exist at the original location.

In January 2017, the ASC started to occupy and use this new location while under construction.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL IMPACT

Annapolis Shakespeare Company serves a diverse population. Patrons come from Anne Arundel County, all Maryland and the District of Columbia, and even theatre-goers from Virginia and North Carolina. There were 109 subscribers and over 6,319 single-ticket patrons in 2016 in the small original theatre space.

ASC is a member of Theatre Washington/Helen Hayes Awards and the Shakespeare Theatre Association, an international association of theatres dedicated to producing Shakespeare's work. Tony Award nominee and Helen Hayes Award-winning director, Donald Hicken, is on the ASC staff of resident directors.

Sally Boyett, ASC founder and Artistic Director, formerly performed on Broadway and is on the Board of Governors for Theatre Washington. She is a guest instructor and director/choreographer at the nationally recognized musical theatre program at the Catholic University of America and a guest instructor/director at Baltimore School for the Arts.

Regional honors and awards have been achieved by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company including:

- Recommended for seven (7) Helen Hayes Awards in the past year and a half.
- Selected to present the Shakespeare First Folio from November - December 2016, in partnership with St. John's College in Annapolis. The ASC initiated the partnership that presented and displayed the Shakespeare *First Folio, The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare*, one of the world's most treasured books. In conjunction with this national exhibit, the ASC provided professional performances and educational programming both at St. John's College and at the ASC small theatre.
- Selected to be the classical theatre to work with the University of Baltimore revamped theatre program (currently one of four theatres in Maryland) through which students will get internships and university credits.
- Critics Association Awards for best professional productions, best actors and supporting actors, and best directors. In 2016, both Sally Boyett and Donald Hicken each received two best direction distinctions for their work at ASC.

PURPOSE OF NEW THEATRE AND ANTICIPATED RESULTS

The basis for constructing new 8,100 square foot theatre space is:

1. Sustained growth in Anne Arundel and enhance theatre available to all surrounding counties, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.

2. Educate youth in the performance arts and Shakespeare appreciation.
3. Become a leading regional theatre in the Annapolis – D.C. – Baltimore triangle.
4. Expand performance and education facilities to enhance existing education programs and establish new affiliations.

Demographically, there are no Shakespeare companies in Annapolis. The Annapolis Shakespeare Company has already been recognized regionally in the D.C. – Baltimore – Annapolis area as a preeminent professional quality theatre.

Studies by the National Endowment of the Arts (2015) and Americans for the Arts concluded that live theatre adds a significant number of jobs, restaurant attendance, and spending in the local community. Although multipliers can be misleading, some suggest that for every dollar spent on theatre, \$7.00 is returned to the economy.

The Board of Directors chose the new theatre space on West Street in Annapolis for location, ease of egress, free parking, and the opportunity to design and construct a new theatre space.

The effects of expanding to new space are anticipated to include:

- Attracting professional talent and expanding employment in AA County.
- Immediately and ongoing employing individuals in the construction industry.
- Expand educational programming to serve more school children in grades K-12 with ASC in-school training, workshops in the new space, student matinees, high school festivals, skill training, etc.
- Provide opportunities for the underserved children and youth in our community through free workshops, camps and performances.
- Improved space and location that can be easily accessed by public or private transportation.
- More restaurant patrons near the theatre. Within two to five miles of the new theatre, there are many restaurants where theatre patrons are likely to eat meals before performances.