

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021



www.imaginationstage.org



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4908 Auburn Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814



(301) 280-1660

MISSION

Imagination Stage empowers *all* young people to discover their voice and identity through performing arts education and professional theatre.



VISION

Imagination Stage envisions a future where theatre experiences are a fundamental aspect of children's lives, nourishing their creative spirit, inspiring them to embrace the complexity and diversity of their world, and helping them overcome their challenges with hope, courage and, above all, creativity.

VALUES

We value inclusiveness and diversity by including all artistry, abilities, and talent, by welcoming and serving the diversity of our community and by respecting the diversity of our world and our work.

We value investment in the future of young people through our commitment to nurturing their creative and intellectual growth through excellent, innovative theatre and arts education experiences.

We value and create a safe haven for young people to embrace and explore their creativity.

We value service on behalf of children as we work to use theatre to improve the lives of children in our community regardless of their means or their location.

We value our staff associates and respect their contributions to the achievement of our mission and vision.

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**Temporary leave-of-absence

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Frank Allen Philpot, 1986-1988

*Deceased



FROM OUR LEADERS

Dear Friends of Imagination Stage,

It is difficult to adequately express our gratitude for the support we received from our community throughout FY 2021, which was a time of profound challenge and change. Our 41st year began with our doors still closed to the public and concluded with Imagination Stage offering in-person camp using guidelines that safeguarded the health and safety of children and adults alike. In between, we delivered hundreds of hours of classes and performance virtually and in many ways re-envisioned our work to meet “the needs of now.”

Highlights and accomplishments of the year included:

- Education classes and student performance opportunities took place online throughout the academic year. Our class schedule included approximately 90 different virtual offerings, including classes specifically created for students with cognitive disabilities.
- IStage offered a remote version of *The Snow Queen*. This adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s tale of courage and resilience was offered as a pre-recorded video December 12-March 5.
- A version of Learning through Theatre that focused on *The Snow Queen* with virtual field trips, live interactive workshops implemented on Zoom, and a professional development course for teachers. Overall, we reached 192 classroom and more than 3,000 students
- IStage debuted *S.P.I.E.S. & the Lost Treasure of Atlantis*, a live-action gaming experience to be enjoyed by families at home.
- Arts venues in our county were permitted to reopen to the public in a limited capacity on March 26, 2021. The limited spring break camp offering was completely sold out.
- We debuted the new play, *10 Seconds*, as a digital production in April 2021. The original script was created in collaboration with participants in our Youth and Police Partnership workshops – a program that brings together young people ages 12-18 with law enforcement officers to find common ground. Each of the 12 screenings of the film was accompanied by a remote workshop or panel discussion.
- Over the summer, we were able to offer in-person camps that garnered 1,132 registrations and resulted in no COVID-19 cases. Our summer program also included 253 students participating virtually.

FROM OUR LEADERS

With income budgets for both theatre and education significantly reduced due to the pandemic, we were extremely grateful for continuing emergency funding from such sources as the Payroll Protection Program, the Small Business Administration's Shuttered Venues Operators Grant, the Arts & Humanities COVID-19 Relief Fund of Montgomery County, Maryland, and others. We also held a highly successful online Gala in February, which was entitled "A Tribute to Founding Executive Director, Bonnie Fogel."

Overall, our earned and contributed income allowed IStage to end the year with a cash reserve, which will be vitally important as the ongoing pandemic continues to create a challenging and unpredictable economic environment.

Even in the midst of ongoing health crisis, we were able to move forward with a number of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access (IDEA) goals, such as changing recruiting practices to emphasize real-world experience over formal education; simplifying our financial aid requirements and application process. Our Producing Artistic Director, Board President, and Board President-elect participated in a monthly national training program through Theatre for Young Audiences/USA. In addition, our Producing Artistic Director and our Artistic Director of Education & Theatre for Change engaged in the Abolishing Racism and Oppression in the Workplace (AROW) training offered by theatreWashington. Our staff crafted a land acknowledgment as well as an IDEA statement that articulately expresses our anti-racism stance. Both declarations are available on our website and appear on video screens in our lobby.

As we navigate our 42nd year, we see a strong future for Imagination Stage as we expand the reach of our work by building on decades of experience as well as discovering new and innovative ways to meet the needs of our community. Thanks to the dedicated commitment of our staff and other stakeholders, we know we will continue to make a difference in the life of young people.

Sincerely,



Janet Stanford,
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Patrick O'Neil,
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

19,904

Children & Families
Reached



COUNTRIES REACHED

Australia
Canada
Germany
Guatemala
South Africa
United Kingdom
United States

288

Classes & Camps

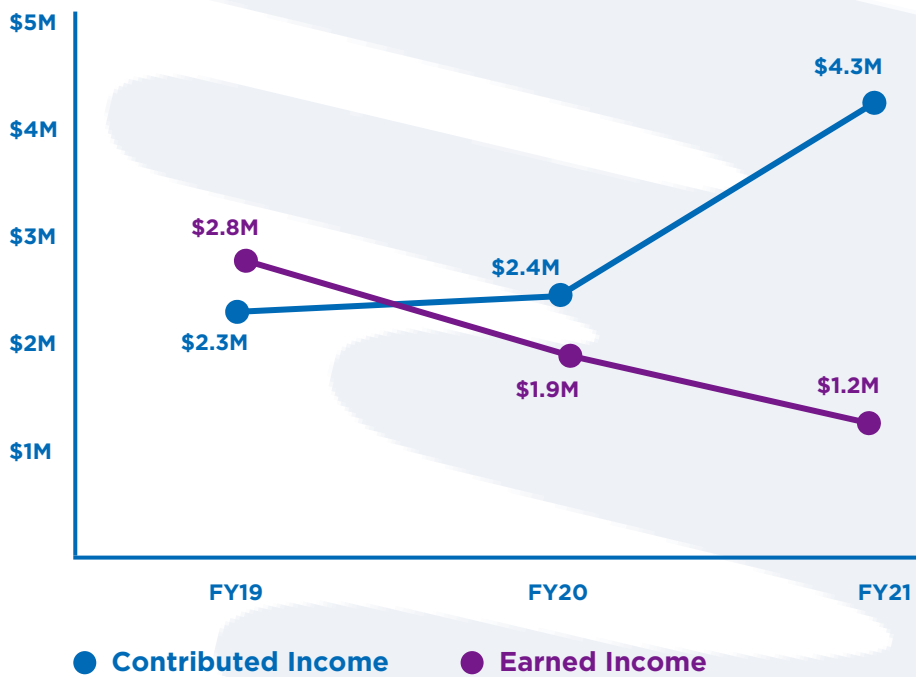




FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following data represents the audited financials for Imagination Stage, Inc. for the fiscal year 9/01/2020 - 8/31/2021.

INCOME TRENDS FY19-FY21



\$5,508,198

FY21 Total Income

\$4,275,881

FY21 Contributed Income

\$1,211,724

FY21 Earned Income

\$20,593

FY21 Other Income

IMAGINATION STAGE, MD

Contributed Income: \$4,038,621
(78.3% of total income)

Earned Income: \$1,100,454
(21.3% of total income)

Other Income: \$837
Miscellaneous Income: \$19,756

ISMD Total Income: \$5,159,668

IMAGINATION STAGE, DC

Contributed Income: \$237,260
(68.1% of total income)

Earned Income: \$111,270
(31.9% of total income)

ISDC Total Income: \$348,530

**Audit conducted by
Squire, Lemkin + Company LLP**

DONORS

Imagination Stage thanks the following individuals, foundations, organizations, and government departments for their support and dedication to our mission.

\$100,000+

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Maryland State Arts Council
Maryland State Department of Education
Montgomery County Government
U.S. Small Business Administration

\$25,000 - \$49,999

David and Mikel Blair
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The Nora Roberts Foundation
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Chengbiao Tu
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Alyssa and Craig Silverstein
Elyssa Tanenbaum
Matthew Yeo

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[^] In-kind donation.

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Anna Klinger
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

Beth Regalbuto
MASTER ELECTRICIAN

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