

2023-2024



ANNUAL REPORT

Pink Umbrella Theater Company
Milwaukee, WI



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Message from the Director

As we embark on our sixth year, it is a good time to reflect on all that we've learned. This Annual Report highlights some of our favorite moments from 2023.

As we embark on our next five year strategic plan, with the generosity of the Ruth Foundation for the Arts, we will be able to find a permanent home, hire an Artistic Director and increase our creation of plays and musicals for the Disability Canon.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to Pink Umbrella day after day and year after year. We wouldn't be who we are today without you.



**Katie
Cummings**

Theater is a reflection of life and community. We are on the cutting edge of creating space for stories that have been ignored to be shared locally and nationally.

We look forward to continuing to tell stories and share all that the Disability Community has to offer.

About Pink Umbrella

Pink Umbrella Theater, founded in September 2018, is proud to be the first professional theater company in Milwaukee with a focus on hiring Disabled Actors and Artists who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability. Together, we create a space that is inclusive and accessible for all.

Pink Umbrella offers performances, workshops, consultations, and theater classes for ages four through adult, virtually and in-person. Our partnerships with community organizations allow us to engage the community in accessible theater and the arts. By broadening our horizons, we are able to build a more inclusive Wisconsin.

Through theater we create, cultivate, and use our voice to better advocate for ourselves and others like us in the community. Whether you are new to the Umbrella, or have been with us since the beginning, there is always a place for you here.

Administrative Team



Rebekah Farr



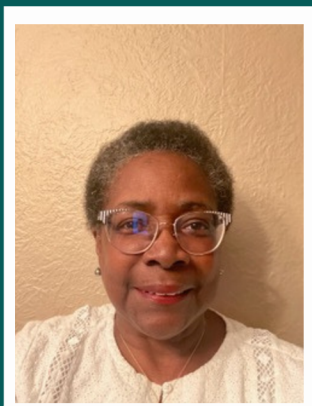
Mary Stone



Chloe Wong

Current Board Members

During their tenure, board members are instrumental in supporting the direction and development of Pink Umbrella. To all our board members, past and present, thank you. We could not do this work without you.



Karen Aronson
President



Tristen Shorter
Vice President



Charlie Ketelhohn
Treasurer



Anthony Munar
Secretary



Janelle Tavela



Patricia Engel



Ryan Schaufler

Mission & Vision

• Mission

Pink Umbrella Theater Company's mission is to provide and promote inclusive and accessible theatrical experiences for people who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability. Pink Umbrella Theater Company is dedicated to providing a platform to amplify the voices of Disabled Artists ages four through adult. We aim to build community, encourage empathy, and strengthen imagination.

• Vision

We are driven by the desire to change the narrative by changing the narrator. Theater should be accessible and inclusive for all. We honor, uplift, and support our participants, actively building inclusivity in our communities. We are committed to listening to and learning from others to ensure that needs are met, and we continue to create spaces that allow the best of our selves to be brought to the classroom, stage, and the everyday.



Year at a Glance

We have been busy this year! From classes to performances, workshops and consulting, and everything in-between, we are astounded by what we've achieved and the support we continue to receive. Check out some of our highlights from the year. We can't wait to see what the next year holds for us!

July

Summer classes were in full swing, and we partnered with KIDS from Wisconsin and DSAW.

August

Kaleidoscope, a musical by Patrick Thompson, explored the hero's journey from a new lens.

March

Em's Ensemble went green for St. Patrick's Day! Thank you to the 12 artists who shared their poetry, and to everyone who joined us at DanceWorks.

April

We continued our in-school partnerships, and were also thrilled to support MSO's Sensory-Friendly Spring Break Concert for a third year.

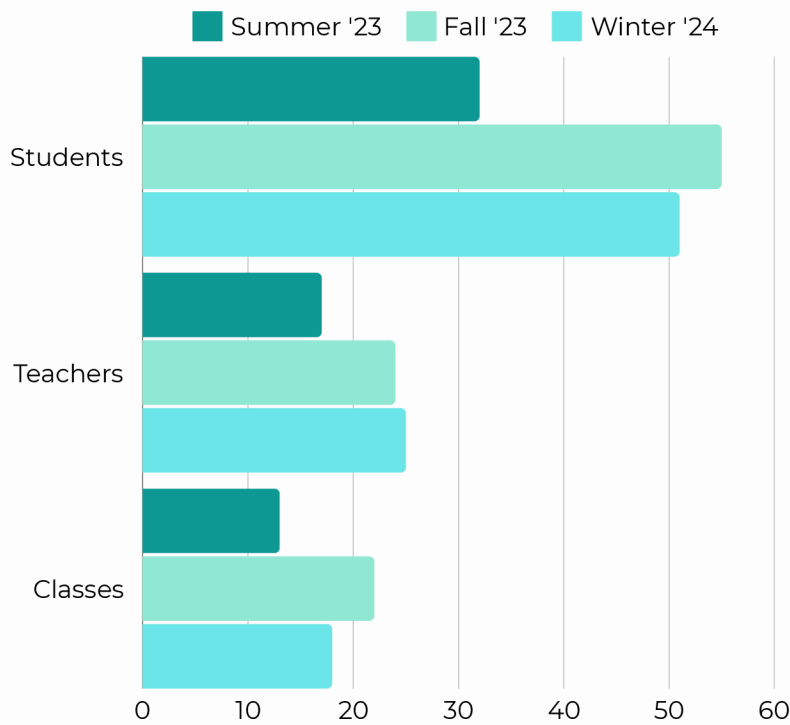
May

Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts (BITH) returned! We were thrilled to take this show to a full, play format.

June

We held our annual Pink Party at the JCC. Thank you to and all who made this a success, especially the Silverstein Family Fund!

Exploring and Sharing Stories



We enjoyed every minute of our classes, and love to see the power and magic that theater can have. Thank you to the 80 students and 41 teaching artists who joined us for 53 classes this past year.



Cedarburg Musical Theater

Our students engaged in a variety of classes, both virtually and in-person. They developed their emotional expression and recognition, expanded their imagination, and became stronger storytellers and artists.

We continued to partner with area schools and community organizations for workshops, weekly programming, and Porch Plays!

In total, we taught 17 workshops, partnered with five schools & community organizations, and held 25 Porch Plays.

Up On Stage

This year, we staged two shows! Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts (BITH) by John Van Slyke returned as a full play, and Kaleidoscope, a musical by Patrick Thompson.

19

crew

Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts (BITH) saw us return to the world of Dee and O, where we once again watched Dee battle the challenges of OCD and anxiety.

15

actors

We rounded out the summer with Kaleidoscope! Through original songs, movement, and inventive storytelling, we explored the hero's journey through a new perspective.

289audience
members

Bizarre Intrusive Thoughts (BITH), May 2024

In the Community

Through our Consulting work, we continue to spread awareness and provide education to fellow community organizations in Wisconsin and beyond. This year, we have been grateful to continue our work with organizations such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and KIDS from Wisconsin, as well as expand our work to Two River Theater, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, the UWM Osher Conference, and more!



Ushers for Two Rivers Sensory Friendly Performance of “HAIR”

1. Usher Training

For Sensory-Friendly performances, we train ushers and other theater staff in understanding disability, how to best prepare and support their audience members, and what they can expect during a sensory-friendly performance

2. Disability Aesthetics

For TYA USA, Pink Umbrella shared key points like using informed practices, planning for all access points intentionally and integrating it into your work, not as an afterthought, and acknowledging intersectionality. We also highlighted the idea of artistic value in the term “Disability Aesthetic”.

3. Creating Sensory-Friendly Theater

When local theaters want to provide a sensory-friendly performance of their show, we work with them through meeting with production team, providing sensory bags, fidgets, and materials for a quiet space, and more, in order to ensure a show environment that is enjoyable for all

4. Understanding Neurodiversity

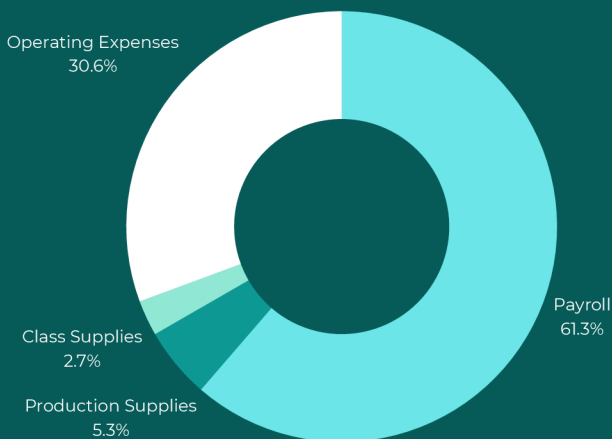
Our foundational training, we overview disability, neurodiversity, best practices, and provide a toolkit and resources for organizations to continue their learning and engage with every community member

Where We Stand

As Pink Umbrella moved through our fifth year, we continued to expand our programming and connections with community partners. Our work would not be possible without our donors, who keep our staff paid, shows running, students engaged, and theater alive.

We are endlessly grateful for the 178 donors and 30 foundations and grantors, as well as everyone who gave their time and energy to support us. You can find a full list of donors on our website at pinkumbrellatheater.org/donors

Expenses



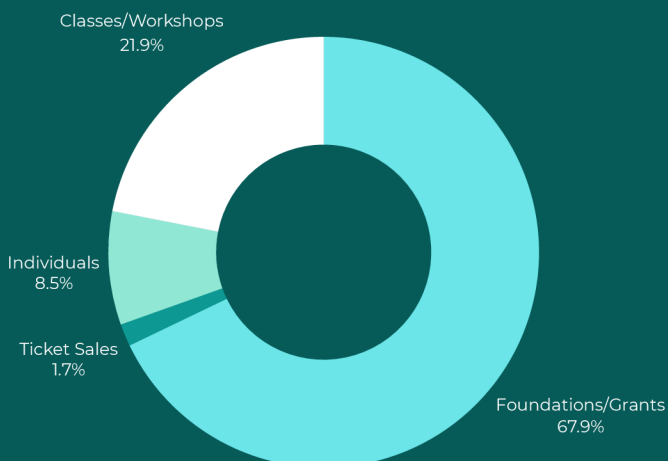
Em's Ensemble Statistics

- 66 attendees
- 12 poets & performers
- \$4,700 raised to provide scholarships

Pink Party Statistics

- 108 attendees
- performance of Kaleidoscope
- \$36,000 raised to Keep the Umbrella Open

Income



Looking Ahead



Em's Ensemble, March 2024

For our next five years, we hope to expand our programming options, find a permanent location and home for Pink, continue to train artists and actors in Disability Theater, and secure long-term, sustainable funding.

Providing a positive experience to all who participate is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, as we grow, we will strive to maintain the quality of our programming, performances, and consulting work

We hope you'll stick with us as we continue to grow and thrive!

Some of our Goals:

- secure a permanent home base
- increase the number of Board Members
- develop and produce new works
- hire a Development Officer and Artistic Director
- increase and secure funding sources
- increase our class offerings, both Pink-run and partnerships
- increase national presence through collaboration
- increase disability representation on and off stage



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Member of the Milwaukee's
Small Arts & Culture Cohort



Our Grantors

