

YOU MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!



**THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU,
BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT
ON THE COMMUNITY DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR
WHICH ENDED AUG 31, 2023:**

- *258 artists and performers employed*
 - *8,624 older adults served*
- *17,000 individuals (about the seating capacity of Madison Square Garden) served through free community programming*
- *More than 2,000 individuals with disabilities were served*
 - *Over 90 professional performances performed*

SPOTLIGHT! BECK CENTER'S ANNUAL GALA



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE AND BECK CENTER ALUM MICHAEL CHERNUS



DR. AMY WOOLEY AND THE BECK CENTER UKULELE CLUB PROVIDED PRE-PROGRAM ENTERTAINMENT.

Thank you so much to all who joined us on Friday, July 14, 2023, at Gordon Green for Spotlight.

The theme for this year's event was "Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future." It allowed us to reflect on Beck Center's 90-year history arts experiences. Proceeds from Spotlight play a crucial role in supporting Beck Center's programming, enabling us to support our dedication to offering high-quality arts education and performances to the community, and to ensure that everyone, regardless of financial situation or ability, can access and take part in arts experiences. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we can continue to reach even more underserved students and audience members through increased financial aid and sensory-friendly programs.

This year, Beck Center posthumously honored Richard Kay, founder of the Lakewood Little Theatre, which later evolved into Beck Center for the Arts. Thank you to his family members for traveling from Nevada to Ohio to celebrate with us.

The evening performance featured Beck Center alum, vocalist Veryl Jones

accompanied by Nancy Maier. Post-program entertainment provided by Moss Stanley and the Nitebridge Vocal Revue.

Stay tuned for Spotlight 2024, we have something exciting coming!

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:

Steve Routman – grew up in Lakewood and Westlake and attended Lakewood Little Theatre from 1970-1980. He has appeared in more than 70 productions in over 30 regional theaters around the country, performing in Shakespeare, *Chekhov, Odets, Guare, Moliere*, as well as contemporary plays, opera, and dozens of musicals. He worked on Broadway directed by the legendary George Abbott and by Matthew Warchus. Steve's extensive film and television work includes *Inside Llewyn Davis, The Trial of the Chicago 7, Fosse/Verdon*, and four projects directed by Martin Scorsese, including the upcoming *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

Austin Pendleton – an Ohio native, is a distinguished theater artist and instructor, playwright, director, and actor on both stage and screen. He has left an indelible mark on the arts through his inspiring performances,

profound understanding of the craft, his sharing of knowledge, and unwavering dedication to the theater. Northeast Ohio audiences may have seen Mr. Pendleton in *Broadway Bound* or *Glengarry Glen Ross* on the Senney Theater stage at Beck Center. He won a Tony Award nomination for Best Director of A Play for the Broadway revival of *The Little Foxes* in 1981. He has received two Drama Desk Award nominations and was the recipient of a Special Drama Desk Award in 2007. His most recent work on Broadway was directing the 2023 Tony Award nominated play *Between Riverside & Crazy*.

Michael Chernus – an actor well known for *Orange is the New Black, Captain Phillips, and Men In Black 3*. Michael grew up in Rocky River, took theater classes and performed in *The Lion in Winter* at Beck Center before heading off to Juilliard School's Drama Division. Regional theater work includes Williamstown Theatre Festival and Off-Broadway theatres (Roundabout as well as The Public, where he won the 2011 Obie Award), the current Amazon Prime series, *Dead Ringers* as well as Apple TV hit *Severance*.

VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS



Since its inception, Beck Center for the Arts has relied on volunteers since it began as an all-volunteer community theater. As a result, Beck Center has become a leader in comprehensive arts education in Northeast Ohio, providing high-quality arts experiences in dance, music, theater, and visual arts for all ability levels and ages. Beck Center's volunteer group, The Beck Ambassadors, supports these programs throughout the years in several ways. In fact, this past year saw 161 volunteers provide over 1,500 hours (about 2 months) for YOUR organization!

As part of our mission at Beck Center, we want to encourage individual growth as a person, artist, and creator in welcoming and safe places. Some of the benefits to volunteering include:

- Strengthen your community and improve your health and well-being.

- Improve self-esteem and confidence.
- Create a difference in your local arts community.

Volunteers are a critical part of Beck Center's mission to inspire, enrich, and transform lives through dynamic arts experiences. Beck Ambassadors provide important services to the broad programs we offer, including:

- Front of House – grab a friend and make a difference helping theatergoers find their seats, and then stay to enjoy the magic of live theater!
- Special Events – Aid in preparations for our biggest fundraiser of the year, Spotlight, and help with other events such as the Lakewood Arts Festival, Lakewood's annual Fourth of July Parade, and more.
- Education and Creative Arts Therapies – Be a welcoming face to Beck Center year-round and help Education with classes, its community programs, and so much more!

- Become a Committee Member – Join one of the committees that move our mission forward. Contact Kristen Levy, Director of Development for more information at klevy@beckcenter.org

- Beck Center's Women's Board – Beck Center's longest-standing volunteer group, whose mission is to support Beck Center's efforts to create a community where everyone can be directly involved in the arts. Contact Kristen Levy, Director of Development for more information at klevy@beckcenter.org

If you are interested in volunteering, please submit a volunteer application today at www.beckcenter.org/about/volunteer

For more information about volunteering, please contact Charles Battaglia, Associate Director of Development at cbattaglia@beckcenter.org

DONOR SURVEY

HELP US ENGAGE YOU THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE ENGAGED BY FILLING OUT THIS QUICK 5-MINUTE SURVEY:

[CLICK HERE](#)

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

The Annual Fund provides essential operating support to continue our dynamic arts education, performances, free community programs, and exhibits. Out of Beck Center’s \$2.9 million annual budget, 30% of our costs are covered by contributions from supporters like you! We couldn’t provide access to our quality arts education and professional performances without you. Thank you to everyone who has donated this past season!

There are many ways to be able help the Annual Fund besides a one-time donation. Other options include:

- Monthly Payments
- Stocks and Bonds
- Matching Gifts
- Helen Brown Society Legacy Society - Those who let us know they have included Beck Center for the Arts in their estate plans become members of our Legacy Society. Legacy Society members are recognized in our playbills,

invited to select events and performances exclusively for Legacy members, and are given the satisfaction of knowing that future generations will be grateful for their foresighted generosity.

You can help us start out our 2023-2024 fiscal year strong by making a gift [here](#) and choosing “Annual Fund”. Please direct questions about the Annual Fund and ways to give to Jay’da T. Hall, Annual Fund Manager at jhall@beckcenter.org

UP NEXT AT BECK

“Cat’s-Paw”

Written by William Mastrosimone
Directed by William Roudebush

STUDIO THEATER

September 22– October 22, 2023

In this tight drama, a political thriller with intel reminiscent a Tom Clancy novel, an unusual terrorist (who is brilliant... and oh, so correct) is the head of a group responsible for a bomb attack at the White House. When a reporter asks if he feels any guilt about the death of innocent people, he replies that hundreds of innocent people die every hour because of what Mankind is doing to its water supply and do the people responsible feel guilt for this? The cat-and-mouse-game between the young reporter and the terrorist leads to a shocking conclusion.

“Entertaining, informative, thoughtful and scary.”
- *The Weekly, Seattle*

Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays.

Recommended for ages 16 and older due to subject matter, onstage violence, and substantial adult language.

TICKETS:

<https://www.beckcenter.org/shows/catspaw>

