



July 2025

Volume 2, No. 7



Welcome to Arts Center Task Force's newsletter, where you can find the latest news about the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center (MCPAC)!

Our mission remains unwavering: to create a home for the performing arts. An environment for artistic expression and innovation. We strive to enhance our community's cultural access, quality of life for all ages, and economic vitality. Thanks to our donors, volunteers, and the dedication of our incredible team, we've made substantial progress toward beginning construction on the MCPAC.



ED Talks - Thoughts from the Executive Director

Why Relationships Are the Heartbeat of Arts Advocacy—And How You Can Lead the Way

While artistry captures hearts, it's the sustained human connections—and thoughtful planning behind the scenes that keep nonprofit arts organizations thriving. Whether through community partnerships, loyal donors, or dedicated volunteer leaders, relationships truly power every curtain rise, gallery opening, and youth workshop.

Just as meaningful as the art that's presented, is the strategy that shapes it. The planning, direction, and purpose guiding our work allow us to deepen impact, broaden access, and build a lasting cultural legacy. And at the center of it all—are people.

What the Data Tells Us

In the nonprofit arts world, relationships are measurable drivers of success:

- 68% of arts grants are renewed annually, and 50% last five years or more, thanks to sustained funder relationships.
- Personalized engagement can increase donor retention by 25%
- Attendees at performances and events are 65% more likely to give again

But it's not just about dollars. Relationships with arts organizations also deliver real value to those who engage:

- A UK study found that regular arts participation reduced stress and isolation—saving individuals on healthcare costs.
- In the U.S., 45% of arts participants report weekly connection with friends or family, compared to 30% of non-participants.
- Community-based arts experiences increase social trust, empathy, and civic participation across all age groups.

The Power of Volunteer Leadership

Some of the most meaningful arts relationships are participatory. Serving on a nonprofit arts board is one of the most impactful ways to shape the creative future of your community.

You don't need to be an artist or performer. Board members come from all walks of life—business, education, finance, marketing, government—and help guide strategy, accountability, and long-term vision.

Research shows that organizations with strong boards are more effective in fundraising, advocacy, and community trust. And volunteer board members report deeper connections, leadership growth, and a true sense of purpose.

Join Us

We're currently welcoming new volunteer board members. This is more than a seat at the table—it's a chance to help shape what the table looks like, who gathers around it, and what kind of magic we make once we're all there.

Arts organizations don't just need patrons. We need partners. Relationship builders. Vision holders.

If that sounds like you—or who you want to be—let's talk.

You can reach out directly to me via email - Blake@artscentertaskforce.com - if you are interested.

Join Us in Shaping the Future of the Arts!



MID-COLUMBIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | CONCEPTUAL AERIAL VIEW



ARTS CENTER

LMN

We're looking for passionate individuals to join our team! Whether you're ready to take a seat on our board or contribute to a committee, there's a place for you.

Committees meet monthly (or as needed). You don't need to be a board member to join a committee!

Our Committees-

Fundraising
Marketing/Communications
Operations
Facilities
Finance

Board membership is application-based and offers a rewarding opportunity to help guide our nonprofit's vision and impact. Board members have opportunities to attend partner performances and experience the art and culture of performing arts in our community.

No performing experience? No problem! All you need is enthusiasm and a desire to advocate for the arts in our community. Be part of the movement that will create a vibrant hub for artistic expression and cultural innovation.

Ready to make a difference? Join us today!

Email - amber@artscentertaskforce.com for more information.

Become a Recurring Donor



Consider Becoming a Recurring Donor!

Recurring donations provide critical, sustaining support for ACTF and put us in an excellent position to meet significant milestones toward building the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center.

Recurring monthly donations are incredibly valuable to our organization as they provide a stable and reliable source of funding allowing us to focus on our mission and plan for next steps with confidence. For questions about becoming a monthly recurring donor, contact us at info@artscentertaskforce.com.

Click the link below to set up your recurring donation with a credit card or checking account, and let the funds be automatically deducted each month - no need to remember or send in payments; your valuable support happens seamlessly.

[Click to sign up](#)

What the staff's been up to!



June 18, 2025

Story Structure That Moves People
3 Rivers Community Foundation

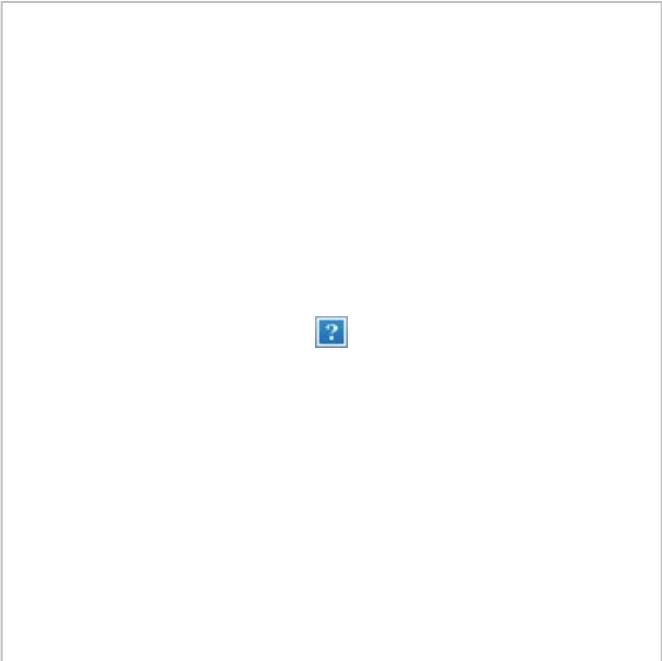
Operations Director Amber Maiden attended the first in a three part series workshop presented by [Time Magic Studios](#) in coordination with [3 Rivers Community Foundation](#). A workshop focused on developing key strategies for communications within nonprofit organizations focused on donor connection.

July, 2025

Tri-Cities Performing Arts Alliances

Executive Director Blake Smith and Chairman of the Board Justin Raffa have reinstated a reoccurring meeting with broader performing arts organizations in the community. This "alliance" has been restarted with the intent to bring arts groups together to discuss ways to better support all performing arts organizations in the Tri-Cities and offer a place to collaborate.

If you are interested in attending and being apart of the discussion please reach out to us for details on the next meeting in August at info@artscentertaskforce.com.



June 27, 2025

Tri-City Chamber of Commerce
Next Gen Leaders

Operations Director Amber Maiden was invited to attend a discussion forum with the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce.

Put on to gain insight to potential classes or trainings the chamber could host to help



connect the next generation of leaders with leadership development opportunities.

Where to find us next!

Where to Find Us Next: ACTF Listening Campaign

The Arts Center Task Force is hitting the road this summer—and we want to hear from YOU! As part of our **Listening Campaign**, we'll be out at some of your favorite community events, talking with neighbors, gathering ideas, and learning what you want to see in the future **Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center**.

Find our booth, meet our team, and share your thoughts!

What kinds of performances excite you?

☐ What would make a performing arts center meaningful for our region?

This phase of the project is all about listening to *you*. Scroll down to see where we'll be next—we can't wait to connect!



Did you see us?

Our team and dedicated volunteers hosted a booth at this years Cool Desert Nights on June 28 in the Uptown in Richland. Pictured is Andrea McMakin a volunteer on our Communications committee manning our booth during a shift with our Executive Director Blake Smith.

You might have seen our giant ground piano that was a big hit with the public for all ages! We will be brining it on the road with us this summer so if you missed out on trying your toes at playing chopsticks, there will be more chances!

Public Presentations

If you'd like us to speak to your club or organization, please contact us at
Info@artscentertaskforce.com



The Studio on Symons Street

Need event, rehearsal, small performance, podcast and/or meeting space? Check out ACTF's [Studio on Symons Street](#) at 704 Symons in Richland. We have a wide range of video and audio equipment available for recordings, including a green screen and lighting equipment.

Contact Amber Maiden, Operations Director, for details and tours.

Amber@artscentertaskforce.com



ARTS CENTER
TASK FORCE

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