

WHAT LEADS TO SUCCESS?

As in the case for the rehabilitation of the historic Norwalk Theatre, we can break it down into five specific areas:

1. Vision
2. Consistency
3. Communication
4. Execution
5. Expert Operations



Although we initially decided to rescue the historic theatre because of its beauty and rich history, we have learned quickly that it is equally important to explain how investment in this building will improve the future of the city and surrounding communities. Our vision is big and the theatre is truly the anchor of our beautiful city. It is worth saving!

So, what will the theatre provide? Many wonder if this is “just going to be a theatre.” Yes and no. It will provide mixed-use development; integrated facilities to enhance the Arts District as part of their surroundings; spirit of place, i.e. stories expressing the city’s attitude, its roots, and even its divisions which make it specific to our area; a unique service improving the city’s quality of life, 365-day and evening usage availability; vibrancy of visitors and their money; comfort, convenience, and connection; and a pedestrian-active urban core.

A common denominator in virtually every success story in a downtown revitalization is historic preservation. The theatre has a significant economic impact to spurring on that revitalization. When investors see the preservation of historic buildings to a downtown area, it signals to them that it is safe for them to do the same and their investments will be more secure. This theatre will be the centerpiece of this newly reborn revitalization that has already begun.

To enhance the viability of a more vibrant and healthy downtown area, a historic theatre will welcome tourists, knowing that the downtown doesn’t fold up after 5 p.m. Restaurants and retail will reap the economic benefit from tourists initially visiting for the experience of a historical theatre, not to mention the locals that benefit from this on a daily basis. What downtown wouldn’t welcome this consistent need?

Our story is a powerful story of hope, vision, passion, perseverance and dedication. Our vision is this- Creating art. Building community. Quite simple, but very powerful for every single person that takes the opportunity to experience the arts. I would go one step further and include “Creating development. Building success” for the greater good of everyone in and around the area.

This brings me to the third point of success-communication. As many can appreciate, good communication is key to any successful relationship, task or project. It is even more of a challenge when there are limited resources to convey that communication. Here at NAC, everyone is a volunteer (other than myself) so we do not have the means to communicate our passion, story and vision every single day as we would like. Our communication is through our supporters & many volunteers and we appreciate that so very much.

Our presence can also be seen on our website at www.norwalkartscenter.org, on our Facebook page, in the newspaper and also on the radio. We have a five-part series coming up in Norwalk Ohio News that will walk you through our story from beginning to present so keep an eye out for that. We will also be doing press releases on this series for those that do not subscribe to NON. Beginning this month, look for Thursday Thoughts- a video series featuring artists who’ve grown up in the Huron County area and have successfully procured a career in the arts.

Our immediate need is fundraising for the rehabilitation project. We have a project that is just over \$13,000,000. In order to start the project in the spring of 2026, we need to raise \$3,500,000. We have come so far with this project, from the replacement of the ENTIRE roof, the restoration of the beautiful marquee to completing the Design Development phase, which is all completely paid for. We are debt free, but are facing the reality of needing to put the grant money

(\$3,000,000) and the tax credit monies (\$3,000,000+) to work! With a project this size, we are extremely proud of the fact that we have raised MORE THAN half of the needed funds. While we continue to apply for grants, we need your help to get us to that \$3,500,000 goal to start the project. Please consider contributing to this. Our annual appeal for 2025-2026 is to invest in historic preservation and the arts. Every dollar is extremely crucial. We have created the Founders Circle membership that will recognize the founding members of this rehabilitation project. This is a three-year pledge of \$100,000 with benefits for the members. If you would like to have more information about any of this or would like to tour the theatre to see the vision, please reach out to me.

Executing this plan for the theatre is in place and is waiting to happen. It truly is dependent on how much this community cares about the importance of economic development, historic preservation and quality of life for ALL our people. It will be a tremendous boost to the area with many, many benefits attached to its operations.

Statistically speaking, a historic theatre with a population of under 50,000 people will create 42 jobs to the area during construction, add \$24.60 per attendee (not including ticket price) of income to retailers & businesses, increase the local tax base and create at least three full-time jobs in the theatre itself. (Source: *Americans for the Arts, 2024*)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Lukasko, Executive Director
Norwalk Arts Center



Arts Education Programs Offer Opportunities to Emerging Artists.

Norwalk Art Center's Artists-in-the-Making (AIM) Program announced the winners of the annual greeting card design contest. Participants were asked to provide designs with positive messages that would translate well to greeting cards. The winning designs have been printed and will be sold in packs of six around Uptown Norwalk, with proceeds benefiting arts education programming and the renovation of the historic Norwalk Theatre.

The AIM Program is for 5th through 8th graders and is held from 2:45-4:15 pm every second Friday of the month during the school year at Sheri's Coffee House. All supplies for make-and-take-projects are provided at no cost, thanks to funding from Norwalk United Fund. The next AIM pop-up is November 14, when the project will be clay mosaics.



Winners are (L to R): Naomi Vaugan, Caroline Vaughan, Etta Butler, Indie Butler, Cricket Brewer, and Kaitlyn McKenna.

The Arts Explorers program is presenting "Ocean Discovery" on Saturday, November 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. at 22 East Main Street. Children in grades 1 through 4 will dive into the depths of the ocean in this immersive movie event. They'll participate in an ocean-themed make-and-take arts activity, enjoy snacks and a movie and even take in a show within a show with a musical revue from the Finding Nemo, Jr. cast.

Norwalk Arts Center's junior theatre production of Disney's "Finding Nemo, Jr." will take place November 14-16 at 22 East Main Street. Two casts have been rehearsing twice a week since early September and will perform shows Friday evening at 7p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at NorwalkArtsCenter.org.

Norwalk Arts Center Announces Its Exciting 2026 Season!

The curtain is rising on another unforgettable year at the Norwalk Arts Center! 2026 is set to be one of our most exciting seasons yet, filled with imagination, laughter, music and community spirit!

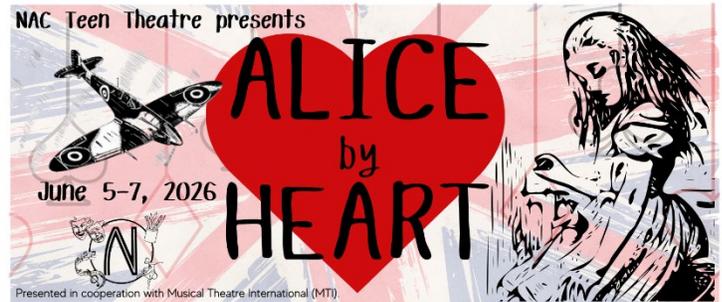
Teen Theatre Presents *Alice by Heart*

Auditions: Late March 2026

Performances: June 5–7, 2026

Ages: 13–19 (must be 13 and a freshman in high school by auditions and no older than 19 by show dates)

Our Teen Theatre program opens the 2026 season with *Alice by Heart*, a heartfelt and imaginative musical inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. In the rubble of the London Blitz during World War II, young Alice Spencer and her dear friend Alfred take shelter in an underground tube station. When Alfred falls ill and is quarantined, Alice invites him to escape with her into the pages of their favorite book — *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Through their journey down the rabbit hole, *Alice by Heart* explores first love, loss and the courage it takes to move forward.



The NACTors Presents *The Addams Family*

Auditions: Late May 2026

Performances: July 31-August 2, 2026

Ages: 16+

Our NACTors — NAC's Adult Community Theatre troupe — will bring audiences a ghoulishly delightful treat with *The Addams Family*! In this original tale, Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family — a man her parents have never met. When Wednesday confides in her father, Gomez Addams, and begs him to keep her secret from her mother, chaos ensues. The result? A dinner party full of shocks, secrets and laugh-out-loud surprises as the Addams family meet their daughter's "normal" boyfriend and his parents. This musical comedy is a hilariously heartwarming story about love, family and the wonderfully weird moments that make us who we are.



Junior Theatre Presents *Honk! Jr.*

Registration Opens: mid-July 2026

Rehearsals Begin: August 24, 2026

Performances: November 13-15, 2026

Grades: 2nd-8th

Rounding out our 2026 season, the Junior Theatre will present the heartwarming and hilarious musical *Honk! Jr.*, a modern retelling of *The Ugly Duckling*. In this charming tale, Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. Teased by the other animals on the farm, he sets off on an adventure of self-discovery - outwitting a hungry Cat and meeting a flock of unique characters along the way. In the end, Ugly learns that being different is something to celebrate, not hide. Witty, hilarious, and deeply moving, *Honk! Jr.* will fill hearts with laughter, tears and joy - a perfect close to an incredible season.



Whether you're performing on stage, working behind the scenes, or cheering from the audience, there are countless ways to be involved in the arts at Norwalk Arts Center. We'll have additional opportunities to perform, volunteer, and participate in special programs throughout the year - so keep an eye on our social media (Instagram & Facebook) and our website, www.norwalkartscenter.org, for updates and sign-ups.

Save the Dates:

AIM (Artist in the Making): FREE Art pop-ups @ Sheri's Coffee House 3:15-4:15 pm (5th-8th grade): Nov. 14: Clay mosaics, Dec. 12: Beaded wreath ornaments (make one, give one)

Theatre Discovery Series: Dec. 5- *Why Zee Won't Quack* open to grades 3 and 4, March 6- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* open to grades 5 and 6, May 8 *Stuart Little* open to grades 1 and 2. Registration required for these sessions.

Arts Explorers: Nov. 22, 2025, Feb. 21, 2026, Apr. 18, 2026 (grades 1-4) Registration required.

Light Up Norwalk: Nov 29, 5-8 p.m. free family make and take at 22 E Main St, Norwalk

Christmas Lock-In: Dec 6, 3-7 p.m. hosted by Norwalk Arts Center Teen Association (NACTA) available for kids grade K- 4, parents enjoy some free time before the Holidays. Registration required for this event.

Noon Year's Eve: Dec 31, 10 a.m. – noon, PJ party with snacks, games and crafts for the little ones to ring in the New Year! Hosted by NACTA. Registration is required.

Visit our webpage for more information about all of our programs and to register! NorwalkArtsCenter.org

Norwalk Arts Center's Food & Fund Drive

in collaboration with



Let's Help Those in Need of Food Supplies

Non-perishable food items and donations accepted at 22 E. Main St., Norwalk every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11 am- 1 pm starting November 17 through the end of the year.

For every dollar donated, Second Harvest can provide 6 meals!

For more info on how and what items to donate:

www.norwalkartscenter.org or email us at info@norwalkartscenter.org



Thank you to our generous continuous benefactors:



HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



THE Fair PUBLISHING HOUSE

Norwalk Arts Center

PO Box 656

Norwalk, OH 44857

info@NorwalkArtsCenter.org



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It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the Arts in North Central Ohio by providing education, experiences and environment for artistic growth.