

Rhode Island State Council On the Arts

Creative & Cultural Economy Bond Initiative

\$35 Million Bond Initiative passed by the General Assembly in 2014 and approved by the voters – overwhelmingly – in November 2014

\$30 million to RISCA to support capital improvements to the cultural infrastructure of our state

- \$23 million for nine specifically named organizations for capital improvements
- \$7 million for competitive grants to small and medium sized organizations for capital improvements to arts & cultural organizations throughout the state
- \$5 million to the Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission to support capital improvements to museums, cultural art centers, and public historic sites located in historic buildings throughout the state
- Awarded through competitive "State Preservation Grants"



What we want to learn

Economic Return: How has this investment...

- Impacted on the creation of jobs in Rhode Island?
 - Short term – how many people are/were employed in these capital improvement projects?
 - Long term – what has happened programmatically with each funded organization that increases employment due to increased capacity?

Programmatic Return: How has this investment...

- Impacted on the growth and expansion of programs and services?
 - What has this cultural investment meant to the expansion of programming?
 - What has the expansion of programming meant to the service provided by the grant recipient, and what economic impact has that had in the communities they serve?

Also, (more difficult to measure), what impact has this initiative had on the vitality of the communities served by each of these grant recipients?



Contemporary Theatre, Wakefield

What do the final reports tell us so far?



Bristol Art Museum

Over the past 3 years we've awarded:

- 9-named grants: \$23,112,040
- 2016 Competitive Grants: \$2,051,419
- 2017 Competitive Grants: \$1,512,276
- 2018 Competitive Grants: \$2,429,404
- 2020 Competitive Grants: \$153,300
- Six grants were turned back, either due to inability to raise the match, lack of clarity around building ownership or a need for more time. Those funds are restricted and will be awarded in the future.



Of those 69 grants, 43 projects have been completed. 26 are still in progress, (9 simply need to submit a final report).

Common Fence Point Improvement
Association, Portsmouth, RI



We've awarded
\$29,491,363.
We still have 26
projects to
complete, yet our
grantees have
already paid Rhode
Island companies
\$64,047,200.

Teatro Ecas, Providence, RI



Of the \$60,000,000 that grantees have spent so far, we have overseen payments to 354 Rhode Island companies in 38 cities and towns.



Installing the new marquee at the United Theater in Westerly

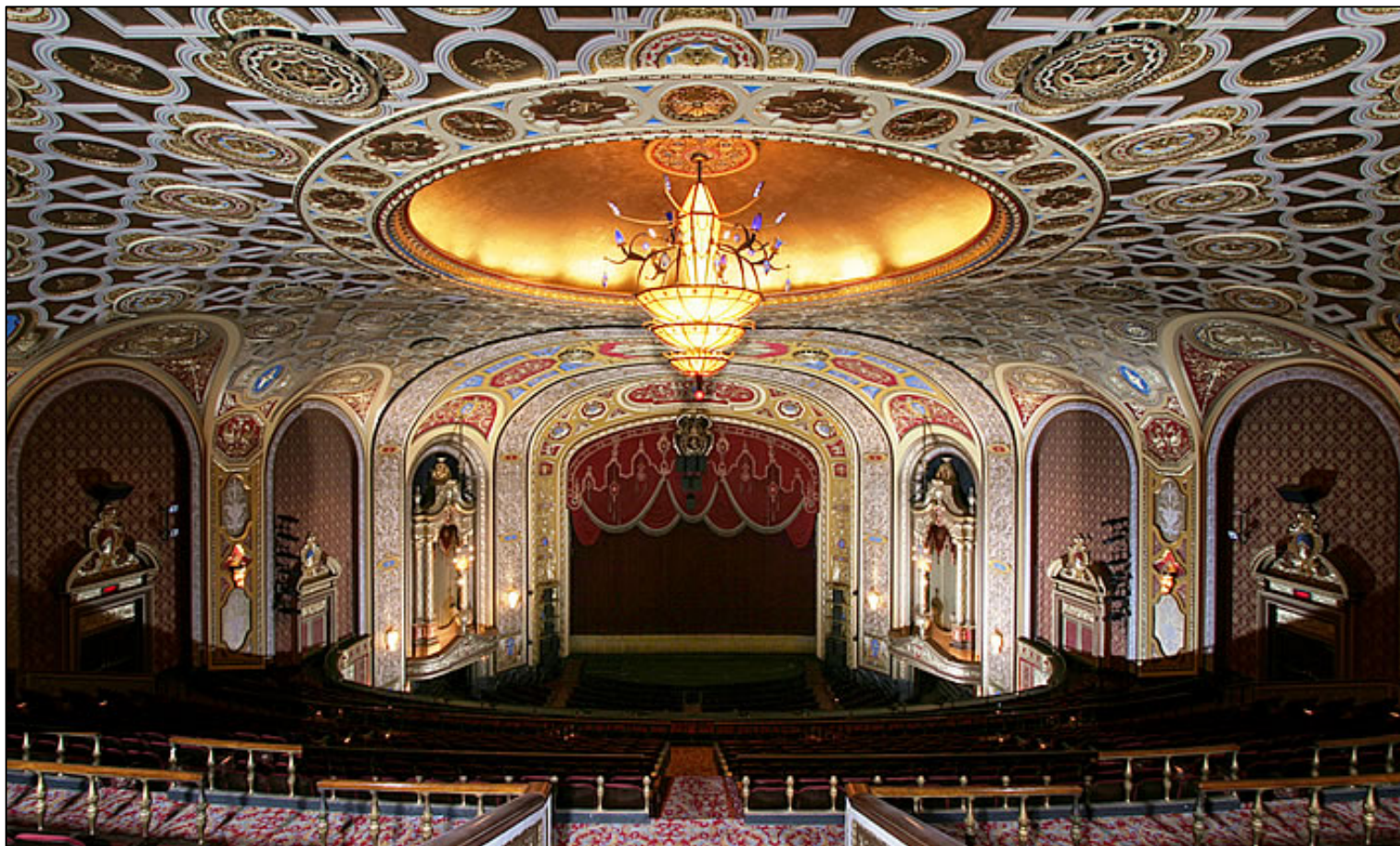
1,545 people were employed. \$16,780,659 was paid in salaries.
MBE/WBE earnings were \$5,301,589.



So far, 1,748,690 individuals have benefitted. 408,261 of those people are children. 19,545 are artists.



Let's look more closely at the impact stories.



Boys & Girls Club, Warwick, 2017

Grant amount: \$100,000

Enhanced arts education & improved the quality of life for Rhode Island students.

Middle school is a stressful time. Being a kid has been particularly difficult for Lucas, who didn't do well in school..

(However) Lucas had a natural ability to create beats. Most of the kids love being in the recording studio, and they started noticing Lucas' easy aptitude for creating music – and they wanted to do it too. We encouraged these middle schoolers, some of whom were the most popular teens coming to the Club, to get to know Lucas and ask for his advice.

Before we knew what was happening, Lucas had two new best friends – and the three would walk together to the Club daily. Lucas is now having fun relating to others and being a sought-after 'teacher.' He is also feeling more self-assured, and his grades are starting to show some improvement because (we believe) he has more confidence in himself.



South County Art Association, Kingston, 2018

Grant amount: \$5,279



- **Increased income.**
- *As an organization over 90 years old, SCAA has deep roots in the community and is a recognized anchor for the arts, not just in South Kingstown, but throughout the State. SCAA contributes to the local economy and the cultural vitality of the community with arts education and monthly art exhibit that are free and open to the public. Because of these renovations we are able to host more community groups, expanded our gift shop to include more space to sell artist work and created an office more efficient and effective for the needs of the organization.*

Mixed Magic Theatre, Pawtucket, 2017

Grant amount: \$50,000



- **Increased audience size & brought audiences outside in Covid-times.**
- *Mixed Magic Theatre built a 300-seat amphitheater, installed a sound-proof wall between our indoor theaters, installed state of the arts lighting and sound in indoor and outdoor sites, painted and installed carpet, box office and furnishing in mainstage lobby, completed fully functional kitchen, installed wood flooring in lobby, made electrical upgrades to lighting, lobby and kitchen.*

Greenwich Odeum, East Greenwich, 2017

Grant amount: \$195,000

- **Made their building safer and more accessible.**
- *The RISCA grant funds made the Odeum safer, fully fire code compliant, more energy efficient and accessible for all patrons. Compliance...has been the largest obstacle in the theater's 90-year history (causing a 5-year closure for fund raising). With full compliance, we removed limitations around the types of performances (particularly film) and eliminated patron restrictions. Before fire sprinklers, we would need to limit all film performances to 200 patrons. Additionally, we could only host 30 film events a year (2 screenings in one day would count as 2 towards our total of 30, so these would get used up very quickly).*



Dirt Palace, The Wedding Cake House

Grant amount: \$250,000

Deepened community connection.

We cannot count the number of times that people have approached us (usually while we're on site) to tell us how meaningful it is to them to see this building being taken care of and who expressed enthusiasm about our stewardship...The initial story about our project in the ProJo was shared upwards of 200 times on Facebook.

We've talked to many people who remember when all of the contents of the house were lined up on the lawn and auctioned off in the early 90's. People have sent us photographs of themselves playing the abandoned piano that was on the side porch for a year or so. We met someone who told us a story about getting his tonsils out in the basement in the 1950's, someone who remembers being invited in for cookies when he was the paperboy, and countless neighbors with stories to tell.



Questions?
Comments?



Blackstone River Theatre, Cumberland

Thank you.

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