

THE LERNER

COMMUNITY UPDATE 2023



City of Elkhart

410 S MAIN ST • ELKHART, IN
(574) 293-4469 • THELERNER.COM

FRIENDS OF THE LERNER

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Rex Martin for serving as the Chair and President of Friends of the Lerner, Inc. since 2018. It was Rex's vision and then his guidance and leadership that have positioned the Friends of the Lerner to continue in its mission for the Lerner's future.

As Rex departs, we are fortunate to have Ashley Martin, Rex's daughter, step in as our next Friends of the Lerner President and Chair. We look forward to working with Ashley.

Thank you, Rex and welcome Ashley.

Ashley Martin is President and Chief Operating Officer of NIBCO INC., the worldwide leader in the manufacture of flow control products for the residential, industrial, marine and commercial construction markets. She serves as Corporate Officer and Executive Leadership Team member and serves on the Board of Directors. She represents the fifth generation of Martin family leadership. NIBCO has been headquartered in Elkhart, Indiana since its inception in 1904.

Since joining NIBCO in 2012, Martin has held a variety of positions including executive vice president, senior vice president, sales; vice president of wholesale sales; general manager of PEX; and director of distribution and transportation. In her current role, Martin is responsible for maximizing the company's operating performance and achieving its financial goals.

Martin co-founded the American Supply Association Women in Industry group in 2013. She served a two-year term as chairperson, beginning in 2016. She currently serves on the Boards for the Indiana United Way, the United Way of Elkhart County and the Stanley Clark School in South Bend, Indiana. She is also a member of the Notre Dame Business Advisory Council.

Martin received her bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana. She holds a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in strategy and operations management from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.



MESSAGE FROM CITY OF ELKHART MAYOR ROD ROBERSON

On behalf of the City of Elkhart, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Friends of The Lerner for their unwavering support of The Lerner Theatre. Their commitment to The Lerner Theatre has been critical to its success.

The Lerner Theatre holds a special place in the hearts of our residents, serving as a cornerstone of entertainment, education, and enrichment. Your continued support ensures that this historic venue remains a vibrant center for creativity, talent, and inspiration for generations to come. As I always say, it is not only the people's theatre but the gem of downtown, something we all can be proud of.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support and commitment to the Friends of The Lerner. Your contributions make a significant difference and we are truly grateful for your partnership.

Mayor Rod Roberson







2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Friends of the Lerner
Program Revenue

\$296,470.00

Friends of the Lerner
Program Expenses

\$85,757.77

Public Donations

\$51,870.11

Net Assets

\$184,589.95

Volunteer Generated
Revenue

\$5,880.61

Volunteer Program
Expenses

\$3,422.73

Total Support
& Revenue

\$369,726.54

Total Expenses

\$295,070.68

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LERNER GOVERNING BOARD

The Lerner Theatre and Crystal Ballroom continue to experience strong growth coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The last two years have truly shown the growth of The Lerner as a concert and event venue that both artists and patrons enjoy visiting. We expect a strong 2024 as Elkhart continues to grow and opportunities expand. We continue to receive rave reviews from promoters, performers, and attendees on our well-maintained, accommodating, and beautiful facility, thanks to the hard work by our entire staff. The HVAC improvements over the last couple of years have been completed and are serving us well. In an effort to make our facility more user friendly and available to all, we have added a program called KultureCity which is geared to meeting and accommodating the sensory needs and challenges of our patrons. In addition, the Lerner has implemented the Ticketmaster ticketing system, which will provide us a wider marketing capability, provide a broader range of sales information and reports useful for future planning and facilitate show closings with promoters. Also, Premier Arts continues to provide training and performance experiences to adults and children and a wonderful array of shows each year. Its plans for the 2024 season include Peter Pan, Matilda, Oklahoma, School of Rock and Elf. A special thank you to Premier Arts for the Lerner Christmas show and the spectacular holiday window displays. We also wish to give a special thank you to the Friends of the Lerner for its program sponsorships throughout each season and our wonderful volunteers without whose help the shows would not be possible.



As the Theatre approaches its 100th anniversary, I am pleased to report that it is in great shape and ready to take on the next hundred years.

Come see us and enjoy all that your Lerner has to offer.

Gary Boyn, President, Lerner Governing Board

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, empathy, and beauty. The arts also strengthen our communities socially, educationally, and economically — benefits that persist even during a pandemic that has been devastating to the arts."

– Randy Cohen, Americans for the Arts

In 1988, Philip Miller requested a meeting with the supporters of the arts in Elkhart, Indiana and City of Elkhart officials asking for their help to restore The ELCO Theatre and make it a visionary in arts and entertainment for the Elkhart community. Mr. Miller had a vision in 1988 of "what could be" for this landmark building. 36 years later, the vision is in motion with vibrancy. Following the completion of the 400 Block Study, a vision was cast in the early 2000's for a renovation and restoration of the former ELCO Theater, along with an operational model that focused on the local community, arts education and national touring talent.



In November 2024, The Lerner Theatre will turn 100 years old. What an accomplishment and testament to the forward thinkers of this community to save this building so many years ago! In its existence over the last 100 years, The Lerner has seen several recessions, a world war, a pandemic, a \$20 million renovation and thousands of local and national events on its stage. The saying, "if these walls could talk" comes to mind!

Following the renovation of The Lerner over a decade ago, The Lerner has followed the operational model established during the 400 Block Study. Emphasis on local production and arts education was a key component to ensuring this beloved building remains affordable and useable for those that helped save it. The Lerner has grown its popularity among national talent agents and promoters, who book the shows and events that are seen on The Lerner stage. Over the last decade, shows and events, attendance, and the economic impact of The Lerner Theatre have all grown, showcasing again that the choice to restore The Lerner Theatre was in the best interest of this community.

As I end my time here after nine years of serving The Lerner Theatre and the City of Elkhart, I am truly grateful for the support for this facility that I've seen daily in my role. It's been an honor to play a part in The Lerner's history. From the administrations to the boards, staffs, volunteers, promoters, the patrons and the community – thank you for your fierce support, trust and love you've shown The Lerner and its staff and volunteers that leads it every day!

The future of The Lerner is bright as it looks ahead to its 100-year anniversary celebration and exciting future to come. What an exciting time for the future of Elkhart and for The Lerner Theatre! Here's to the next 100 years!

Thanks for the memories,

Michelle Weir

FRIENDS OF THE LERNER BOARD MEMBERS



The Friends of The Lerner was founded in 2015. The founding members were Dallas Bergl, Ellie Billey, Gary Boyn, Art Decio and Diana Lawson. Their mission was to enable the Friends of The Lerner to act as a bridge for those who wish to contribute to the continued success and growth of the Lerner.

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the new board of the Friends of The Lerner: Dallas Bergl, Elizabeth Bond, Gary Boyn, Robert Deputy, Isaac Torres, and Ashley Martin.



Dallas Bergl is the President and Chief Executive Officer of INOVA Federal Credit Union and has worked in the credit union industry for over 25 years. Mr. Bergl was awarded the Key to the City of Elkhart in 2007, the Indiana Credit Union League Professional Achievement Award in 2008, and the Indiana University South Bend Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics Lewis S. Armstrong Award in 2015. His industry and public service includes being a member of the Lerner Theatre Governing Board, the Friends of the Lerner Board, and many other boards and committees both now and over his career.



Elizabeth Bond was born and raised in Elkhart and returned in the 1980's with her husband to raise their family. Over the years, Elizabeth has found it a pleasure to serve on a variety of boards and committees. Her hope is that the work and service she does will continue to help Elkhart become a place where others want to return. Joining the Friends of the Lerner has been an honor to her and she believes the Lerner continues to be the catalyst for Elkhart's downtown reinvention and growth.



Gary Boyn formerly served in a leadership capacity on a number of municipal and community boards including the Elkhart City Board of Public Works, National New York Central Railroad Museum Commission, Premier Arts, Inc., Elkhart City Bar Association, Elkhart Lions Club, Elkhart County Council on Aging, Inc., and ADEC, Inc. He continues as counsel for the Elkhart Redevelopment Commission, Aurora Capital Development Corporation, Elkhart Urban Enterprise Association, Inc., and Elkhart Festivals, Inc. He serves as the President of the Lerner Governing Board and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Lerner, Inc.



Robert ("Bob") Deputy is the former President and CEO of Godfrey Marine and philanthropist who has built a thriving business and given back to the community. His past work and accomplishments have left a strong legacy that thrives on leadership, relationship building, and serving others. Bob's family oriented and entrepreneurial spirit has benefited places such as IU South Bend Elkhart, Godfrey Marine, the Friends of the Lerner, and many other different organizations that he has been a part of.



Isaac Torres is owner and president of InterCambio Express, an international money transmitter that specializes in wiring funds to Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Mr. Torres grew up in a family of small business owners in Mexico City and knew from an early age he wanted to be an entrepreneur. Mr. Torres received his MBA from Indiana University-South Bend, where he wrote a paper for his Marketing Management class, generating the idea for his company. Mr. Torres enjoys spending time with his family and is an avid supporter of the local community.



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FRIENDS OF THE LERNER DONOR BENEFITS

SPOT LIGHT

\$50

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 24 hours prior to the public
- Recognition in online Annual Report

STAGE HAND

\$100

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 24 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner

APPRENTICE

\$250

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 24 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner

AUDIENCE

\$500

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 48 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner

FRIENDS OF THE LERNER DONOR BENEFITS

OPENING ACT

\$1000

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 48 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner
- Invitation to annual member celebration

CHORUS

\$2500

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 48 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner
- Invitation to annual member celebration
- Private backstage tour by appointment

PERFORMER

\$5000

- All previous tier benefits
- Sponsorship/personalized dedication of two theatre seats (While inventory lasts)
- Name included on the Friends of the Lerner donor wall

DIRECTOR

\$7500

- All previous tier benefits
- Behind the scenes facility and historical tour
- Private backstage tour by appointment
- Sponsorship/personalized dedication of three theatre seats (While inventory lasts)
- Name included on the Friends of the Lerner donor wall



FRIENDS OF THE LERNER DONOR BENEFITS



PRODUCER \$10,000

- Inclusion in the E-Club and advance email notice of events
- Opportunity to purchase tickets 48 hours prior to the public (When Available)
- Recognition in the online Annual Report
- Website Recognition as donor to Friends of The Lerner
- Invitation to annual member celebration
- Behind the scenes facility and historical tour
- Sponsorship/personalized dedication of four theatre seats (While inventory lasts)
- Name included on the Friends of the Lerner donor wall

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER \$25,000

- All benefits from the previous tier
- Your Name in Lights! A message in the Theatre's marquee rotation for a day (Based on availability. Pre-approved message required.)
- Use of the Theatre for a day for your party or event. (Subject to availability. Labor charges may apply.)
- Invitation to an exclusive meet and greet (Pending artist availability)



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Thor Industries, Inc

Robert W. Martin

InterCambio Express

Tom & Dottie Arnold

Dallas & Dawn Bergl

INOVA Federal Credit Union

Brian & Jeannelle Brady

Jack P. Cittadine

Arthur J. Decio

Bob J. Deputy

Doug R. Grant

Ashley M. Martin

Rex Martin

Shawn Klose & Alexis A. Martin-Klose

George G. Thomas

Dave Weaver

M. Scott & Kim Welch

Jeff M. & Phid Wells

The Welter Foundation

Mary Naquin

Elizabeth Borger

DONORS



SPOT LIGHT

Aaron Fugate
Amy Schuler
Ashley Braun
Bernard Asdell
Brian Peare
Brian Wrona
Caro King
Carole Mullins
Chad Rinehart
Chris Miller
Christopher Taylor
Connie Ackles
Dale Bandauski
David Kriegel
Diana Siegel
Diane Hill
Diane Werts
Dina Harris
Elise Schmidt
Eric Wolgamott
Erin Bantz Lee
Frank J Sartini
Fred Kurman
Geneva Eash
Gloria Sura Taylor

Grace Shupp
Heidi Bentzer
Janet Siri
Jeff Moore
Jeff Nelson
Jeff O'Connor
Jeff Reed
Jeff Tanner
Jeffery Greer
Jeffrey Swanson
Jennifer Callaway
Jim Ferro
Jimmy Bouterse
Jody Slater
Joel Annable
Joseph Greenlee
Julia Noblitt
Julia Willis
June Little
Karen Buwa
Karen Lambo
Karen Pedler
Karen Schnoebelen
Karolyn Phillipp
Kay Eller
Kristie Stutsman

Kurt Madvig
Laura Cira
Laura Roberts
Lisa Rhoades
Lori Akin
Lori Denning
Lots Pinnyei
Margaret Conner
Marissa Sparks
Marlene Lake
Meg Shelly
Michael Anderson
Michael Garber
Michelle Crusie
Mike Yoder
Monica Abair
Myra Simpson
Neil King
Nicole Nusbaum
Pam Mason
Paul Decker
Paula Kauffman
Pete Mayfield
Phil Gleissner
Randy Stone
Richard Armington

DONORS

Rickey Schott
Robert Erwin
Robert Piechocki
Robin VanZile
Roger Barth
Ron Wiesman
Ross Kehr
Ryan Wolf
Sally Billings
Sally Nielsen
Scott Williams
Sherrie Warner
Stephen Beck
Stephen Bowers
Steve Lynn
Stuart Broderick
Susan Hammes
Teresa Covey
Teri Friedauer
Terri Huber
Thomas Atkinson
Tim Peterson
Timothy Kling
Valerie Singell
Vicki Sparks
Wayne Mark

STAGE HAND

Angie McKee
Angie Miller
Audrey Almdale
Barbara Tenney
Carrie Lee Bland-
Kendall
Danny Thomas

David Mark
Dennis Kebrdle
Diane Hoffman
Donald Wheeler
Doug Chaffee
Gail Koehler
Greg Weaver
Jane Stewart
Jeffrey Majerek
Jolene Roth
Loretta Blessing
Louis Feil
Mary Haas
Michael Boznak
Michael Krizman
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D.
Boyn
Mr. Joseph B. Gold
Paul D. Thomas Living
Trust
Ralph Shive
Rebekah Short
Rob Sink
Robert Waddle
Roger Rymer
Terri Briner
Timothy Ball
Willy Welter

APPRENTICE

Monica Swartzentruber
Heather Jenks
Jane Jacobs
Kelly Weadick
Monica Swartzentruber



Robert L. Giel
Ryan Rohrman

AUDIENCE

Stephanie Krol
Mary Ann Erwin
Janet Evanega
Glenn Cushman
Nina Mark
Leonard Nelson
Patricia Nickell
Greg Hoogenboom
Kathy Donahoe
Michael Lewisa
Stephen Macumber

OPENING ACT

Interfund Activity
Donna Lochmandy

CHORUS

William Russo
Linda L. Miller



LIFE'S A PERFORMANCE LIVE IT AT THE LERNER

November 27th, 2023
marked The Lerner Theatre's
99th Anniversary.

Nearly a century ago, Harry E. Lerner, an Elkhart businessman, announced that he planned to construct a modern "theatrical palace" on the corner of Franklin and Main Streets in Downtown Elkhart. The Lerner Theatre became a reality with the Grand Opening on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1924.

Very few theatres get to celebrate 99 years of making long-lasting memories. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve our Elkhart community for the last 99 years and are looking forward to many more years to come.

STAY CONNECTED



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