

KARAMU

A JOYFUL GATHERING PLACE

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWING LEGACY

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THE VOICE OF LEADERSHIP

Karamu House Friends, Patrons, and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff at Karamu house, the nation's oldest producing Black theatre, we are delighted to bring you the 2022-23 Annual Report: : **Rebuild. Renovate. Rebirth.**

It was a year to **Rebuild**, as we continued adjusting to a redefined normal in the post-quarantine environment. It was a time to **Renovate**, as our theatre wing capital improvements neared completion. And it was a period of **Rebirth**, as we began preparation for expanded offerings in our new and updated spaces. This report highlights the programming that our talented performers, designers, technicians, teaching artists and staff delivered to community members of all ages.

Looking ahead, we are firmly committed to building **Karamu's Next Generation**, continuing the legacy for another 100 years. We are thrilled to revamp our Education & Administration wing in the next renovation phase. The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel foundation has awarded a generous matching grant of \$4 million to support this effort.

Join with us in securing Karamu's future as a patron, member, sponsor, donor, or volunteer. Thank you in advance for your investment in Karamu's Next Generation!



Tony F. Sias

PRESIDENT + CEO

Michael Jeans

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Theatre.Education.Community

Mission Vision & Values

Vision: To be a premier professional theatre producing socially relevant entertainment, while delivering innovative, culturally responsive arts education programs and experiences for life-long learners.

Mission: To produce professional theatre, provide arts education and present community programs for all people while honoring the Black experience.

Values:

Inclusion: Valuing diversity within and outside Karamu House.

Collaboration: Partnering to achieve winning outcomes.

Integrity: Demonstrating high moral principles.

Joy: Expressing delight and happiness for our work with community, partners, and each other.

Excellence: Achieving the highest quality in all we do.

Impact: Making positive contributions in lives and community.

IMPACT: People Served

ENGAGED

11,700

with community programs
celebrating Black life and culture

EDUCATED

1,535

youth and adults through
culturally-responsive arts
education

PARTNERED

30

community organizations, serving
as a convening space

ENTERTAINED

7,078

with thought-provoking,
professional theatre

EMPLOYED

638

contract performing,
technical and teaching artists

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

10,457

followers

INSTAGRAM

5,661

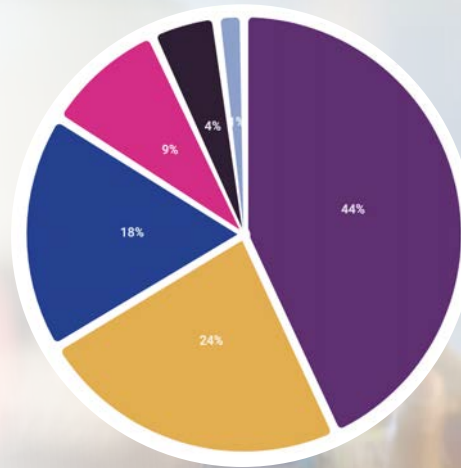
followers

Impact: Karamu by the Numbers

Income

Government Foundation Donations Theatre Misc Arts Ed.

Government: \$1,375,115
Foundation: \$831,055
Donations: \$575,303
Theatre: \$219,227
Misc: \$139,508
Arts Education: \$74,671

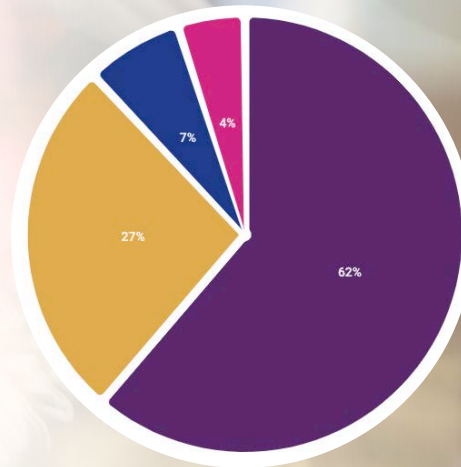


Total - \$3,214,882

Expenses

General Production Arts Ed. Marketing

General: \$1,779,161
Production: \$731,783
Arts Education: \$191,213
Marketing: \$130,717



Total - \$2,232,876



Summer Arts students performing A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 2022 ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Students ages 11-17 participated in the Summer Arts Intensive which focused on studying and performing classical works.

Opening ceremony at the Second Line Parade + Sneaker Ball



August 2022 **Second Line Parade + Sneaker Ball**

Karamu returned to Lake View Cemetery for our 3rd Annual Second Line Parade + Sneaker Ball benefit that honors the African American tradition of the New Orleans second line parade, a funeral processional and celebration of life, and honors the many notable Clevelanders and Karamu alum now residing in Lake View Cemetery.



Black Nativity

December 2022
Black Nativity

Karamu was excited to partner with the Cleveland Play House to produce *Black Nativity* with the support of Playhouse Square. Karamu joined fellow theatre companies downtown to celebrate the holiday season.



Red Summer

February 2023
Red Summer

This World Premier, written and directed by Associate Artistic Director Nina Domingue was conceptualized by President + CEO Tony F. Sias. The play tells the story of the racial violence that took place across the United States during the summer of 1919 and how that violence is reflected in present day.



Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine at Karamu House

May 2023 Ohio Tourism Day

Karamu House hosted Governor Mike DeWine, First Lady Fran DeWine, Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb and City Council President Blaine A. Griffin to celebrate Ohio Tourism Day on May 10, 2023, one of three stops around the state to promote the new branding campaign, "Ohio, the Heart of it All."



June 2023 Juneteenth Freedom Fest

In collaboration with Downtown Cleveland, Ingenuity Cleveland, and Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, and sponsored by MetroHealth, Karamu was featured at 3rd Annual Juneteenth Freedom Fest in downtown Cleveland. This free family event welcomed more than 10,500 people over two days to celebrate Black culture and history.

Why Invest in Karamu's Next Generation?

If you live in or around Cleveland or have visited the area, you have heard of Karamu. Most Baby Boomers who grew up here experienced the after-school Arts Academy Programs or the Summer Intensive Program. And their children had the same life changing experiences. But why should you invest in Karamu? One of our major donors and investors gives us answers to the “why” you should invest your time, talent, stock, property or gift planning in the future of this local jewel and national treasure.

Investor Message



Deborah L. Plummer, PhD
Founder & Executive Director of GettingToWe.org

Karamu House is high on my list of philanthropic support because it represents the values that are important to me in both my personal and professional lives—inclusion, empathy, joy, community, and building networks or meaningful relationships across differences. As a native Clevelander who works nationally and internationally, I know what a treasure Karamu House is to the Greater Cleveland community and beyond. We can brag about Karamu as the oldest producing African American theatre in the nation and we can call out recognizable, notable names in theatre, film, and literary arts that are connected with Karamu. Yet, we can also be proud of how Karamu strengthens our community by creating a sense of belonging and positive cultural identity.

Collaboration is critical to Karamu's mission. Karamu House remains a vital partner in my efforts to enhance social trust and strengthen human connectivity in our society. In our polarized society, to quote Toni Morrison, “this is precisely the time when artists go to work.” Through its impactful theatre performances, quality arts

education and exceptional community programs, Karamu House strengthens the social fabric of our diverse communities and “goes to work” as a strong and key contributor in the local, regional, and national arts and cultural community. Please join me in ensuring that the rich heritage of Karamu House continues by making a donation or planned gift, getting a theatre membership, and most importantly, sharing this Cleveland treasure with your networks.

GROW.EDUCATION Summer Arts Academy Intensive Program

Life Changing Experiences

Naniya B.

Is a 16-year-old, 10th grader in Cleveland who said she has learned that her voice matters and even as a “Black girl” in Cleveland, she can accomplish great things! She recommends Karamu as a great learning environment for young Black kids. She says “Karamu teaches you structure” with love!



Mateo LLC.

Mateo is a college student who said Karamu helped him understand and learn the basics of social engagement, and how to control and express his emotions and feelings.



Zariya H.

Is a 13-year-old 8th grader who said she really learned how to accept people and their differences, and how Karamu is a “Sacred Space.”



Leila Michell S.

Is a 14-year-old student who believes the environment is very healthy and allows students to better receive the arts education challenges posed. She believes that Karamu is a “safe space where students are not judged or shut down.”

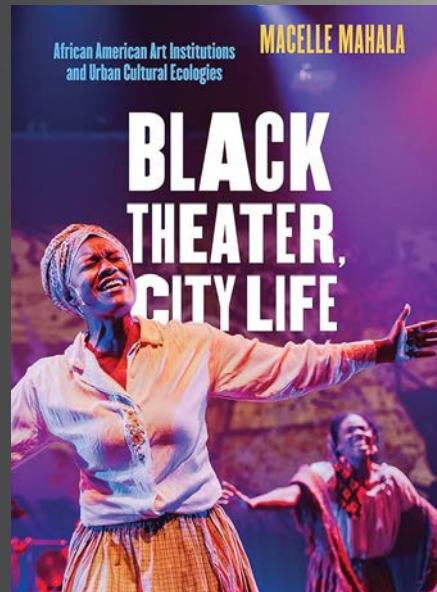


Alecia J.

Is an 18-year-old college freshman who recommends Karamu’s Summer Arts Education Program to anyone who wants to be a part of “an amazing culture that will prepare them for their future in theatre.”



Recognition



Karamu House was thrilled to be featured in *Black Theater, City Life: African American Arts Institutions and Urban Cultural Ecologies* by Macelle Mahala in 2022. The chapter titled *A Hundred Years of Joyful Gathering in Cleveland*, is dedicated to ensuring Karamu's legacy is preserved in Black and American theatrical history. The cover photo features Karamu's production of *Freedom on Juneteenth*.



Awards

Karamu House received "The Doors of the Theatre Are Open" award at the second annual Antonio Awards ceremony at the legendary Apollo Theater in New York, NY on October 10, 2022. The Antonio Awards were founded in 2020 by The Black Theatre Society, a subsidiary membership organization of Broadway Black, with the intent of honoring extraordinary achievements within the Black theatre community.



Investors

*Contributions in honor and memory of Molly Laverne Wright

**Contribution in memory of Walter C. Smith

^Donations for capital improvements

Donor List

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

\$1 Million+

Bank of America^

\$500,000-\$999,999

City of Cleveland, Department of Economic Development^

State of Ohio, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission^

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund^

\$250,000-\$499,999

The Cleveland Foundation

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The George Gund Foundation^

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District^

\$100,000-\$249,999

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Black Seed Initiative

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

George W. Codrington Charitable Foundation^

Leonard C. Hanna Trust

Dr. Deborah L. Plummer^

The Richard and Emily Smucker Family Foundation^

State of Ohio, Arts Economic Relief Program

\$50,000-\$99,999

City of Cleveland, Mayor's Office of Youth Prevention

Fifth Third Bank

The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation
African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Ohio Arts Council

\$25,000-\$49,999

City of Cleveland

FirstEnergy Foundation

Kulas Foundation

National Endowment for the Arts

PNC Bank

Albert B. and Audrey G. Ratner

The Reinberger Foundation

The Shubert Foundation

Smith Whiting Family Foundation

Starting Point

The Treu-Mart Fund

\$10,000-\$24,999

Cleveland Clinic

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The Good Community Foundation

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KeyBank

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PNC Charitable Trusts/Robert H. Reakirt Foundation

Saint Luke's Foundation

United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland

XHIBITION

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous

Teresa Metcalf Beasley

The Callahan Foundation

Tammy Coney

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

FirstEnergy Service Corp.

Tania Horne

The John Huntington Benevolent Fund

Jeff and Susan Lucier

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Nordson Corporation

Robert P. Madison International

Singleton + Partners

Third Space Action Lab

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Amy and Marc Morgenstern

\$2,500-\$4,999 *continued*

Alan K. Nevel and Valerie Crawley

Port of Cleveland

Franz Welser-Möst and Angelika Möst, on behalf of The Cleveland Orchestra musicians

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Black Environmental Leaders Association
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Tony F. Sias
James Stone
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Darryl and Giselle Wilson
Jackson T. Wright Jr.

\$250-\$499

David Abbott and Jan Roller
Richard and Eugenia Atkinson
Arthur and Marilyn Baker
The Historic Bakersfield Fox Theatre
Margaret Bernstein
Laura Capuozzo
Bernadine and James Cockey*
Mark Cole
James Collins and Patricia Brownell
Scott and Laura Desmond
Glenwood and Margaret Dobbins*
Tricia Eschbach-Hall
Marina Grant
Loretta Gray
Greater Cleveland Association of Black
Journalists
Tracy Hill
Dominique Hollins
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Timothy LaRiche
Ann and Mike Lew
Charlie B. Miller
Susannah Muskovitz
Sandra and John Price
Tawny Ratner
Robert Render
Chris Riley
Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
Michael Solecki
Diana C. Starks

\$250-\$499 *continued*

TEGNA Foundation
Daryl Thornton*
Edward Towns
Blanche and Jack Valancy

\$100-\$249

Actors' Equity Foundation
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Tiffany Allen-White
Erika Anderson
Warren Anderson*
Anonymous
Anonymous*
Lawrence Appel*
Sherri Appleton and Marty Resnik
Kristina Bailey
Marcus Barnett and Freda Singleton
Gerald and Pamela Hardy Beck*
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Justin Herdman
Laura Hong
Cheryl Hostetler
Morgan Ippolito
Yvette Ittu
Lenore Ivy**
Kesha Johnson
Vickie Johnson

Jeffrey Kapp
Susan Kenney
Jared Klein
Ebony Lampkins
Olivia A. Leak
Terrance Little
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Rebecca Roark
Barbara Robinson
Frances Robinson*
Sheila Rocquemore
Rita Ross
John Sedor*
Sheila Renee Sharpley
Charlotte Shaw*
Carolyn Still*

\$100-\$249 *continued*

Jacqueline Wild Stimpert
Dona Stokes-Lucas
Benjamin Stulberg
Alton Tinker
Barbara Vickers
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Karamu House Leadership

Leadership

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VINCENT TOSE, Assistant Technical Director

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