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

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

Total - $2,232,876
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.

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.
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.

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.
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.”

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

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.

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

**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.”

**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.

**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 Antonyo Awards ceremony at the legendary Apollo Theater in New York, NY on October 10, 2022. The Antonyo 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
Arianne Kirkpatrick Couch and Danny Couch Edgewater
Equity in the Arts Fund/The Cleveland Foundation
The Good Community Foundation
Brian Hall and Jackie Dalton-Hall
Michael and Areli Jeans
Kendal at Oberlin
KeyBank
The McGregor Foundation
Stephen McHale Family Foundation
John P. Murphy Foundation
PNC Charitable Trusts/Robert H. Reakirt Foundation
Saint Luke’s Foundation
United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland

$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
McDonald Hopkins
Nordson Corporation
Robert P. Madison International
Singleton + Partners
Third Space Action Lab

$2,500-$4,999
Lewis and Ruth Affelder Fund
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Omega Chapter and Alpha Omega Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
Evelyn Burnett
Lytle and Johnnie Davis
Huntington National Bank
Jennifer Hurd
Jack and Jill of America Cleveland Chapter
Jack Entertainment
Collette and Daryl Laisure
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Libman
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
Joann and Thomas Adler Family
African American Philanthropy Committee of The Cleveland Foundation
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Black Environmental Leaders Association
April Miller Boise, 50 Black Women Fund
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The Church of the Covenant
CLE Consulting Firm
Cleveland Landmark Press Foundation
Cleveland Public Power
Cleveland State University
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Darryl and Giselle Wilson
Jackson T. Wright Jr.

$250-$499
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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
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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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Ronald B. Adrian
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Erika Anderson
Warren Anderson*
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Karamu House Leadership

Leadership

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