

THE GRIFFIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORIC IRONWOOD THEATRE

WINTER 2023-24

HIT SECURES FIVE GRANTS

In September, HIT received notification of five successful grant applications.

The first was an Enbridge Fueling Futures grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support The Wizards of Winter Christmas Show on December 13th. According to Enbridge, "By collaborating with community leaders like HIT, we're Fueling Futures. Together we're energizing communities through initiatives that strengthen community safety, vibrancy and sustainability. Enbridge is proud to support local priorities that make positive and lasting impacts in our communities."

The second grant was from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) for Operational Support in the amount of \$11,250 and the third, Capital Improvement grant in the amount of \$26,400 towards the 2024 lighting upgrade project. MACC provides grants to encourage, initiate and facilitate an enriched artistic, cultural and creative environment in Michigan.



The fourth grant for \$25,000 was received from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Michigan Nonprofit Association. The grant is for organizations that demonstrated a loss incurred after March 31, 2021 due to the COVID-19 public

health emergency. Lost public service revenue, costs for responding to a public health emergency, providing assistance to households, payroll protection, and other economic impacts negatively affecting service delivery were covered by the grant.

The fifth grant was for \$250 from the AmeriCorps/ Corporation for National and Community Service, the Michigan Community Service Commission and Michigan Department of Labor for the 9/11 National Day of Service Volunteer Project. This grant provided cleaning supplies for our local God's Work Our Hands and HIT volunteers to perform the annual fall cleaning project.

The Grant Team members include Bruce Greenhill (chair), Zona Wick, Karen Hagemann, Lori Booth, Barb Gibbons, Susie Filippo, Marie Eggleston, and Rachel Kane. 🐾

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Zona Wick, HIT Board President

October 1st was the beginning of a new fiscal year for HIT and the beginning of year seven of my presidency. It's been a joy to see the theatre grow and thrive for the past six years. We have gone from one part-time employee to two full time employees and two part-time employees. We also have an AARP volunteer at the front desk 18 hours a week and a full-time VISTA member.

We are so proud of the recent expansion of our wireless microphone system and this year an \$80,000 lighting upgrade. The improvements in our tech department have been incredible. 2024 is also bringing computer and WIFI upgrades to our building.

And we don't expect to slow down anytime soon. Programming is bringing more amazing shows to the stage in 2024 and the grant team is warming up for another successful year.

The board welcomed Marcy Kusz and Michael Genisot in October. Two new energetic and motivated community members that will assist us in moving HIT into the future.

We have also started a 100th Anniversary Committee and have put together a time line to prepare for this significant event in June 2028; which is four short years away. The committee is looking at building upgrades, a historical perspective and special events. If you are interested in joining us, please give me a call.

A sincere thank you to our community for supporting the theatre this past year. We could not do it without so many people that give of their time, talent and financial support. Please know how much we appreciate you! 🐾



Zona "Witch" HIT Head Wizard

 ZONA WICK
HIT BOARD PRESIDENT



IronwoodTheatre.net

Wed. Dec 13 @ 7 PM



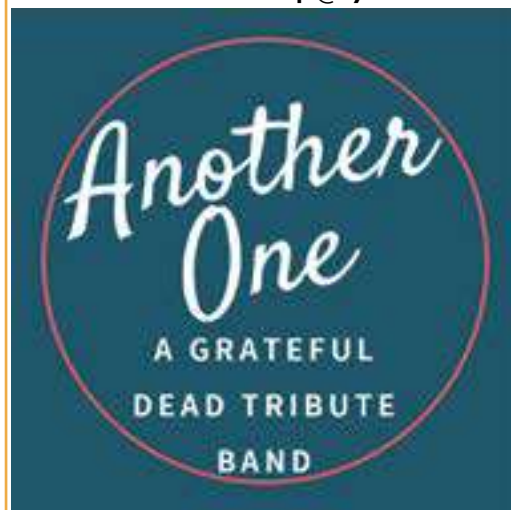
THE WIZARDS OF WINTER - featuring former members of Classic Rock Giants - The Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Ted Nugent Band, Rainbow, Alice Cooper, Blue Oyster Cult, along with Broadway and Theater veterans perform a holiday rock opera titled *The Christmas Dream*. From ballads to rock and a visit from Mrs. Claus - there is something for everyone. Celebrate the season with WOW!

Sat. Jan 20, 2024 @ 7 PM



Take a musical and visual road trip back to the 80's, when bands rocked your world and kicked some butt on stage too. Performing the biggest hits from Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Bon Jovi, and Aerosmith, **THE HYPE!** presents five mini-concerts packed into over two hours of Electrifying, High Energy 80s Glamtastic, Bombastic Rock!

Sat. Feb 24 @ 7 PM



This six-piece Milwaukee All-Star band has come together to honor the legendary music and spirit of The Grateful Dead. **Another One's** high-energy performances are sure to transport you to space, and leave you feeling the magic of **The Dead's** timeless sound.

BOARD MEMBERS FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

On October 19th the HIT board met for its organizational meeting, the first meeting of the new fiscal year. Board President, Zona Wick, will stay on for another year with Doug Muskett remaining as Vice President. The board said goodbye to Susie Filippo who served as secretary for two terms. Rich Jenkins will be taking her place. Jackie Powers remains treasurer. The board welcomed two new members, Marcy Kusz and Michael Genisot. Marcy comes to the board with a vast resume of volunteer and fund-raising experience. Michael is attending Gogebic Community College and will be the student representative. Remaining board members are Stacy Wood, Sandy Bentley, Dan Tregembo and Rick Semo, Ironwood City Commission liaison. 🐾

Ironwood's Wizarding World

The Harry Potter themed fundraiser was a huge hit here at HIT on November 10th and 11th. Such an immersive experience has not been done at HIT since the Awkward Stage

Drama Club had a haunted house in the basement many years ago. Three generations of families were treated to three floors of Hogwarts, 9 ¾ Platform, Diagon Alley, the Gryffindor Common Room,

the Dursley's home at 4 Privet Drive, and their favorite characters. There was shopping, games, food and the favorite butterbeer for kids at Honeydukes and adults at the Quidditch Sports Bar. The event raised over \$15,000 toward the new stage lighting project in 2024. 🐾



END OF YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

INCOME

Performance/Show	\$154,660
Show Sponsors	\$ 28,350
Donations	\$ 58,120
Grants	\$ 51,910
Sales	\$ 8,390
Total Revenue	\$301,420

EXPENSES

Performance/Show	\$113,470
Office/Operations	\$ 3,335
Theatre/Equipment	\$ 47,140
Fund Raising	\$ 7,925
Payroll	\$ 83,340
Total Expenses	\$295,210
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 6,210

The Theatre took some risks this year with an ambitious program schedule, sound and lighting upgrades, and the addition of an administrative manager. Through the work of our skilled volunteer teams, community support and dedicated staff, we finished the fiscal year in the black with a \$6,210 surplus. Additionally, our capital reserves remain healthy. The outlook is good to continue our momentum!



If you have insurance or investments with Thrivent you can help HIT. Thrivent wants to help members make a difference in the community and has funds available. Simply gather a team of friends, family or neighbors to put on a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Thrivent provides the resources you need to get started - including up to \$250 in seed money. Then you and your team, including HIT volunteers, can get busy bringing your project to life. Ask your Thrivent representative or Zona Wick, President for more details.

GRIFFIN layout/design by



SHARP GRAPHIC DESIGN

Wed. Mar 13 @ 7 PM



CHICKEN WIRE EMPIRE

Born from the Wisconsin jamband scene, **Chicken Wire Empire** is a technically proficient, well-crafted mixture of modern original songwriting and time earned classics. They take on some wonderfully exciting elements of modern progressive bluegrass while retaining their original character, born of their greater Milwaukee town roots.

Sun. Apr 7 @ 7 PM



With a flair for the wild and unexpected, the genre-defying trio, **TAKE3**, brings the refinement of a rigorous classical music background and infuses it with rock-star charisma. This threesome leaves their indelible mark on captivated crowds performing their arrangements of top pop hits.

Wed. Apr 17 @ 7 PM



Experience the magic and creativity of **ARTRAGEOUS**. Performances are high-energy and crafted to feature immersive theater encouraging audience participation and typically highlighting several genres of music, dance, puppetry, storytelling, and speed-painted visual art. Artrageous performances feature 10-12 multi-talented costumed troupe performers. Enter the world of Artrageous!



As HIT continues the countdown to its 100th celebration, a 100th Anniversary Committee has been started that includes Zona Wick, Sandy Bentley and Sandy Sharp who met on September 7th. An outline was created which included frequency and scheduling of meetings. Projects for the capital improvement plan will need to be done soon so the board can get those in the budget. The committee would like to see the foyer returned to its grand state. The women's bathroom is in need of repair and updating and many other projects are being addressed.

The committee has asked John Ostrom to join the Anniversary Committee as the local historian to assist with a historical timeline. The committee is also discussing a documentary and merchandise to celebrate the event. If you are interested in joining the committee please call Zona at 715-862-0390. 🐾



There Really is a Prince Charming



On September 24, 2023, HIT showed the classic Disney movie *Cinderella*, sponsored by Zaks Realty. About 50 little princesses paraded around the auditorium before the movie, but then, one little Cinderella lost her slipper.

Thank goodness a handsome prince was there to slip it back on. Chivalry is not lost in Ironwood, MI. Thanks to LaVerne Morello for capturing this shot. 🐾

HIT WELCOMES PARKER SMITH

PARKER SMITH started with HIT on October 23, 2024. VISTA members are placed at host sites to serve at least one year to build capacity at the organization, strengthen community initiatives, and fight poverty.

Parker's assignment at HIT is to focus on building the capacity of our audiences and our volunteers. Parker will collaborate with Gogebic Community College and the movie program to investigate how both organizations can work together to improve programs and services for both. HIT is very excited to welcome this energetic young man into our organization. 🐾



Parker Smith

THEATRE BOX OFFICE

Open: Monday - Friday Noon - 4PM

906-932-0618

Tickets online at IronwoodTheatre.net



reception@ironwoodtheatre.net

Theatre location: 113 E. Aurora St., Ironwood, MI

Theatre office: 109 E. Aurora St., Ironwood, MI

IRONWOOD THEATRE, INC.

PO Box 187

IRONWOOD MI 49938

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VISION: The vision of the Historic Ironwood Theatre is all generations personally experience the joy of theatre community.

MISSION: To preserve and provide an iconic facility where everyone is invited to discover and enjoy the performing arts.



See you at the movies!

Family-friendly Sunday matinees and First Friday movies for the grown-ups continue. To assure we show the movies you want to see, we are offering businesses, organizations or individuals the opportunity to sponsor a movie.

A \$200 tax-exempt donation allows you to pick a movie. We are looking for new sponsors so contact Julie at movies@ironwoodtheatre.net for more information. 🐾

Dec 1, 7 pm - **ELF**, sponsored by *Ironwood Chamber*

Dec 17, 2 pm - **FLIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**,

sponsored by *Little Finland*

Jan 5, 7 pm - **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS Honor Among Thieves**

Feb 2, 7 pm - **FOOTLOOSE 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

CONGRATULATIONS MR. OSIER!

Donny Osier, an active HIT volunteer since the early 90s, was recently inducted into our Volunteer Wall-of-Fame by Theatre Manager Bruce Greenhill who said "...the honor is long overdue."

Donny is most-visible when he is mixing sound at live shows, but he does so much more that people don't see. He provides audio training for HIT tech volunteers, offers equipment acquisition recommendations, and reviews touring bands' tech riders. Donny puts in some very long days on show days – loading in and setting up bands and packing up afterwards. He is deeply committed to continually improving audience experience as demonstrated by the huge amount of time he invested in the recent sound system upgrade. He is also a fine musician who plays bass in the pit band for local variety shows, high school choirs, and Tim Mesun's annual Barton organ fundraiser.



Mark Silver Grachek(L)
with Donny Osier(R)

Congratulations Donny – and thanks for all you do! 🐾

Operation of the Historic Ironwood Theatre is supported in part by a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As an inclusive and welcoming organization, it is the policy and commitment of Ironwood Theatre, Inc. also known as the Historic Ironwood Theatre, that it does not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, military status, national origin, physical or mental disability, or religion in any of its activities or operations.

