



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Free Family Shows

We also continued our annual tradition of offering two free family shows to the community in the fall (*Exhibit This* presented by the Youth Acting Company at Worcester Art Museum) and spring (*The Stories of Hansel & Gretel* and *Peter & the Wolf* performed by the Youth Ballet Company in partnership with Worcester Chamber Music Society).



STEAM Workshops

In the fall of 2022, the education department developed a series of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) workshops to serve local schools. We expected to host 12 workshops in FY23 but nearly doubled that number with **22 workshops serving 478 students and 81 teachers from 8 schools** throughout the year.

“ The hands on approach to Geometry standards was engaging for our students. It was great to show our students the connection between math and the arts. ”

Local educator

School Workshops

Annually, we offer in-school workshops and on-site engagement to schools all over central MA. This year, **140 students from Worcester’s Sullivan Middle School** had a fully immersive experience which included attendance at two student matinees, an historical tour of the theatre, a STEAM workshop, acting workshops with conservatory faculty and an in-school visit from three *Christmas Carol* cast members who led drama workshops for the students. Multiple touch points throughout the year help us to develop long-term relationships with area students.



EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WYSH

The WYSH (Worcester Youth Speak Honestly) Project is an opportunity for Worcester teens to become advocates for themselves and activate social justice in their community. Sharing their stories with each other and their community helps them develop their unique voices, their place in the world and their potential to galvanize change. This collaborative program includes developing an original piece of theater based on their life experiences, theatre-going and social events, and scholarships for classes in the conservatory. **This year the program served 10 young people who toured the show to three area schools.**



Creative Movement with ASPIRE!

This movement class for individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) or challenges related to brain injury is a partnership with Seven Hills. For the last seven years, we have adapted our dance curriculum for the participants' unique abilities, while fostering personal growth through gross motor development, physical movement, uninhibited self-expression and social connection. In the spring of 2023, **16 individuals participated in one-hour movement classes twice a week for 15 weeks.**



Downtown Dance

In June 2023, our dance faculty visited **six elementary schools** in Worcester's Burncoat quadrant. Students at Burncoat Prep, Clark Street Community School, Norrback Avenue Elementary, Thorndyke Road Elementary, Wawecus Road School and Worcester Arts Magnet participated in dance classes in order to be evaluated for this new community program. Downtown Dance will give Worcester children in our community the opportunity to join our conservatory's dance program at no cost. **All tuition and dancewear will be covered by THTC.** We look forward to reporting more on this pilot program over the next year.

OUR MISSION: To ignite and nurture a passion for the performing arts in audiences and artists of today and tomorrow.

OUR VISION: To be a dynamic downtown destination where all people can experience the transformative power of the performing arts.

HANOVER THEATRE
& CONSERVATORY